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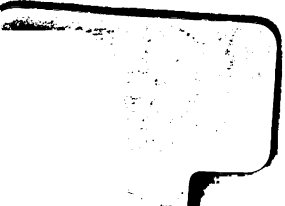
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**A REVIEW**  
**OF THE**  
**CHANDOS PEERAGE CASE,**  
**&c.**

LONDON :  
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Dorset Street, Fleet Street.

A REVIEW  
OF THE  
**CHANDOS PEERAGE CASE,**  
Adjudicated 1803,

AND OF THE PRETENSIONS OF  
**SIR SAMUEL-EGERTON BRYDGES, BART.**

TO DESIGNATE HIMSELF

*Per Legem Terræ*  
**Baron Chandos of Sudeley.**

BY  
**GEO: FRED: BELTZ, Esq.**  
LANCASTER HERALD.

LONDON:  
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,  
Publisher in Ordinary to His Majesty.  
MDCCCXXXIV.

1834





## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THIRTY-ONE years since, the House of Peers, upon the report of its Committee for Privileges, to which the evidence in support of the petition of the late reverend Edward Tymewell Brydges, claiming the barony of Chandos, had been referred, resolved and adjudged, that the petitioner had not made out his claim to that dignity.

From the same period, the press—public and private, domestic and foreign—has teemed with imputations, by the claimant's brother and heir and the active conductor of the case, of the injustice of that decision, and the consequent denial to a British subject of a just right of inheritance by the highest tribunal of his country.

This bold complaint has taken almost every form of literary composition. It has, sometimes, been poured out in melodious strains of poetry: sometimes, an eloquent tale of fiction has shadowed forth the actors in the unfortunate contest: here, a happy anecdote or sketch of real or imaginative biography—there, a piquant note or topographical reminiscence—has afforded occasion to inveigh against partial and incompetent judges, or corrupt and treacherous agents: and the sensitive and gifted accuser, with inexhaustible powers to charm and to instruct, has even stooped to the drudgery of editing a peerage of nine volumes, in order that a few of its pages might transmit a record of his family wrongs to posterity.

Beyond, however, the extremely limited circle which such a topic was capable of interesting, these wailings have been unheard or unheeded; for the admirers of the entertaining, though desultory effusions of this accomplished person, have long ago learnt to separate the dross from the ore, and to regard the eternal *Chandos Romance* as an episode which may be safely passed by without prejudice

to the more attractive essays of their favourite writer.

In the mean time, the few remaining spectators of the olden scene could not fail to observe that—instead of meeting the points at issue by a full and satisfactory narrative of the case, with the requisite citation of convincing proofs, and a logical discussion of their several bearings upon the question—the ingenious baronet has been content to leave its main features in obscurity; preferring innuendo, satire and invective, to the weapons of greater efficacy which would doubtless have been within reach of his powerful talent, had his premises been founded in truth. It has also been apparent, that the exacerbation, which he has occasionally manifested on this tedious subject, has increased in a ratio with the distance from the date of the judgment, either by an impetus created by habitual reflection on his disappointment, or by the gradual removal by death of the individuals who were known to be best acquainted with the details of the evidence.

The mask is now thrown aside: insinuation has

ripened into assertion : and, as a last legacy to his injured race, he proclaims himself a Peer BY THE LAW OF THE LAND.

Lest this *Cantio Cygni* should be prophetic of a revival of the claim under the auspices of a new generation—and recollecting that the case is as yet unreported—that the minutes of evidence, printed during the progress of the inquiry for the use of the peers, are rarely, if at all, to be met with in a collected form—and that there is generally a great want of information upon the subject—it has been deemed advisable to compress within the following sheets, as far as was compatible with the necessary perspicuity, the leading circumstances of perhaps the most extraordinary attempt ever made to attain the summit of a British patrician's ambition.

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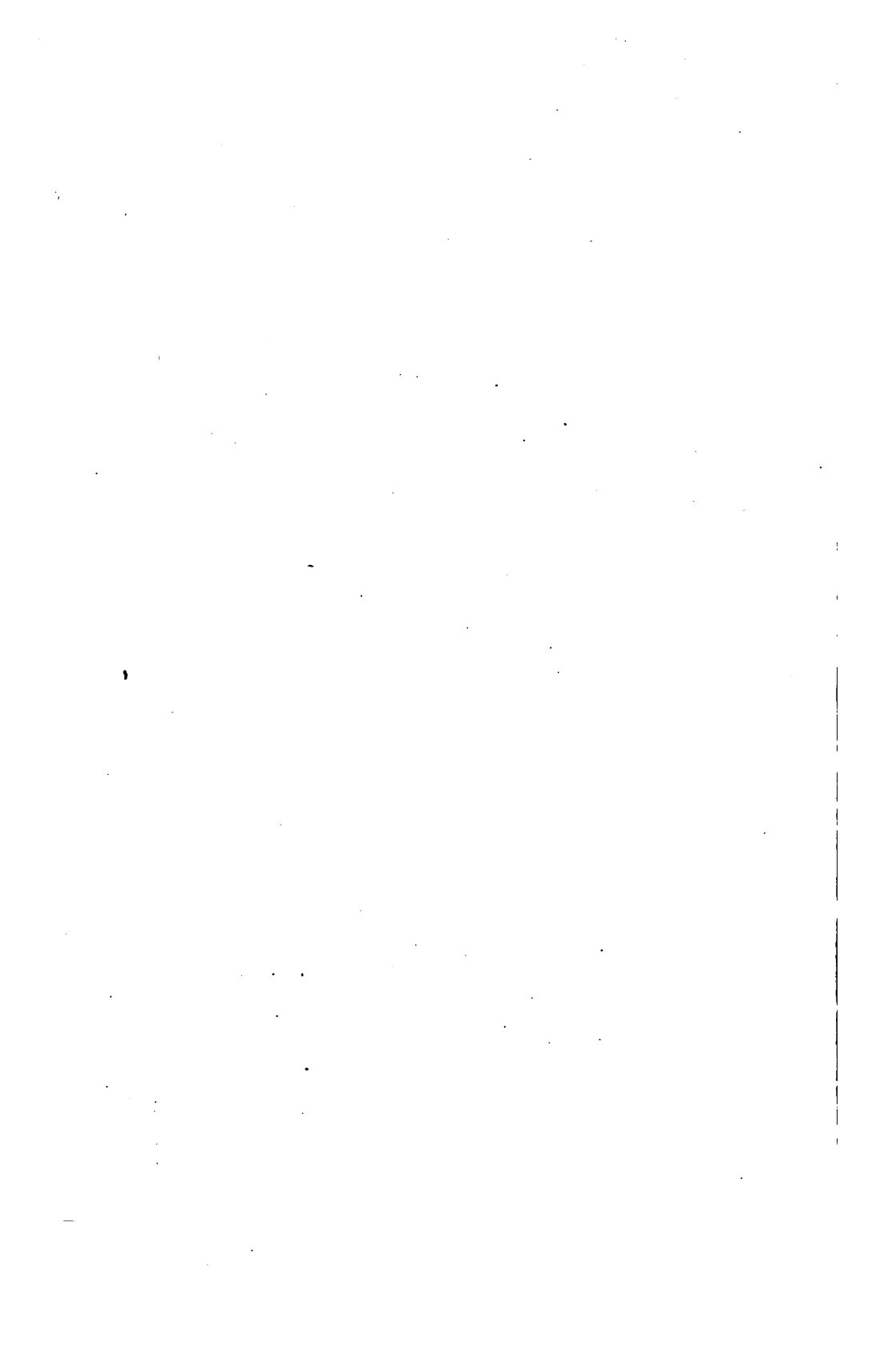
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# THE BARONY OF CHANDOS.

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## SECTION I.

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIM TO THE BARONY OF CHANDOS OF SUDELEY, WITH REFERENCE TO THE PRINTED MINUTES OF THE EVIDENCE PRODUCED FOR THE CLAIMANT AT FOUR SITTINGS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PRIVILEGES, FROM 21st DECEMBER 1790 TO 18th FEBRUARY 1791.

SIR JOHN BRIDGES or BRUGES, created baron Chandos by patent, dated 8th April 1554, to hold to him and the heirs male of his body, left, at his death in 1557, five sons—Edmund, Charles, Anthony, Henry, and Richard.

Edmund, the eldest, succeeded; and, upon the presumed\* failure of heirs male of his body in 1676, Sir James Bridges, bart. great-grandson and heir male of Charles, second son of the grantee of the dignity, had summons to parliament under the limitations of the patent. His son, James, ninth lord Chandos, was created earl of Caernarvon in 1714, and duke of Chandos in 1719; and, upon the death of his grandson, James the third and last duke, without issue male, 30th September 1789, the male

\* Appendix, n. I.

line from Charles Bridges was considered to be also extinct.\*

Assuming thus the failure of male descendants from Edmund and Charles,—the heir male, if any, of the body of Anthony Bridges—the third son would be entitled to the barony.

According to a pedigree entered at the Heralds' Visitation of Herefordshire, Anno 1634, and subscribed by Sir Giles, the son and heir of the above Charles Bridges, Anthony, the third surviving son of the grantee of the dignity, had issue by his wife, whose family name appears to have been Fortescue,† a son, Robert Bridges, and a daughter, Katherine, married to Sir John Astley, of Maidstone, Knt. A pedigree, by Vincent, Windsor Herald, amongst the records of the Heralds' College, describes Anthony to have been of Avening, in Gloucestershire, (where there is a monument to the memory of his brother Henry,) and states that he had, besides the lady Astley, a daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Brayne of that county.

Of Anthony Bridges and his issue very little is known from authentic sources. He was a legatee in the wills of his father and mother, the lord and lady Chandos, in 1555 and 1559; and he presented, *pleno jure*, to the rectory of Maisey Hampton, in Gloucestershire, in 1584;‡ but when

\* See Pedigree I, at the end of the volume.

† Appendix, n. II.

‡ "Nov. 9, 1584, John Aistell, clk, was presented to the rectory of Maisey Hampton, in this county, by Anthony Brydges, esq. *pleno jure*." (Registrar's Office, Gloucester.) The immediately preceding presentations to the same living had been made by his brother Edmund lord Chandos in 1570, and his nephew Giles lord Chandos in 1573.

and where his children were born, whether he had any son or sons besides Robert, whether Robert was the eldest, and when and where he himself died, does not appear. The existence and filiation of Robert rest solely upon the testimony of his cousin-german, Sir Giles, given in 1634; he is not described as the *only* son; and the inference that he *was* the *only* son of Anthony, can be drawn no otherwise than negatively from the omission of any other son in that testimony: but inasmuch as Sir Giles, in the account then given of his family, omitted *two younger brothers of his own living at that date*,\* his statement as to the issue of his uncle cannot be received as complete.

An additional member of the line from Anthony was produced, by the will of Sir John Astley, dated 3rd January 1639-40, in the person of Ann, otherwise Agnes Bridges, a niece of dame Katherine Astley; and as this individual sustains so prominent a part in the extraordinary history of the claim to the Chandos barony, as to be the pivot upon which the whole case turns, it is indispensable to state somewhat in detail the circumstances under which she is introduced to our notice.

The words of the bequest in the will of Sir John Astley are as follow:—“ Item, I give to my cousin *Ann Bridges* or “ *Agnes Bridges, by what name soever she be called, who* “ is niece to my wife dame Katherine, the full sum of “ 1000*l.* of lawful money of England, to be paid to her at “ the time hereinafter limited; and if the said Agnes “ Bridges shall die before the time by me limited for the “ payment of the said 1000*l.*, then I give 500*l.* thereof to

\* Appendix, n. III.

“ the said Sir Jacob Astley,”\* &c. “ and the other 500*l.*  
 “ residue of the said 1000*l.* (if the said Ann Bridges shall  
 “ so die as aforesaid,) I give to my two cousins Thomas  
 “ Astley and Drew Astley.” “ I give to my well-beloved  
 “ wife dame Katherine all my silver plate and all the  
 “ household stuff,” &c. “ as are properly belonging to and  
 “ ordinarily used in the several rooms of my house called  
 “ the Palace,” “ and in the chamber within the same  
 “ *where my said cousin Agnes Bridges did heretofore*  
 “ *usually lie.*” Towards the conclusion of the will there  
 is the following remarkable clause—“ And my will further  
 “ is, that if any legatee in this my last will and testament  
 “ *named or meant*, whom my said executor *shall not well*  
 “ *and certainly know*, that shall, by virtue of this my last  
 “ will and testament, demand any legacy whatsoever of  
 “ my said executor, that every such legatee, *whatsoever*  
 “ *he or she may be*, shall first make very good and satis-  
 “ factory proof to my said executor of *his and her being the*  
 “ *true and undoubted party* to whom such legacy or legacys  
 “ are or ought to be paid, before my said executor *shall*  
 “ *be compelled* to pay such legacy or legacys as aforesaid.”

In the anticipation of the failure of male issue in the branch of the duke of Chandos, Mr. Samuel Egerton Brydges, the brother and presumptive heir of the Reverend Edward Tymewell Brydges, of Wootton Court, in Kent, appears, during several years prior to the death of that nobleman, to have occupied himself with great diligence in collecting, in divers parts of the country, materials for preferring eventually a claim to the barony. It is, how-

\* Cousin to the testator, and afterwards lord Astley.

ever, matter for astonishment that his researches respecting a family of such eminence should have thrown no light whatever upon the line which it must have been his chief object to illustrate; and still more, that, in the total defect of any other means of connecting himself with that, or indeed any line of the noble house, than were in possession of any other family happening to bear the name of Bridges, he should have ventured upon an enterprise of such peculiar difficulty.

In October 1789, the month following his grace's death, the reverend Mr. Brydges presented his petition to the king, claiming the dignity of Baron Chandos of Sudeley, as lineal descendant and heir male of the body of the above-mentioned Anthony Bridges, namely, as son and heir of Edward Bridges, of Wootton, esq., the brother and heir of John Bridges of the same place, esq., the son and heir of John Bridges, also of Wootton, esq., the son and heir of John Bridges, of Canterbury, the only surviving son and heir of Edward Bridges, of Ospringe, *the son and heir of Robert Bridges, of Maidstone, esq., the only son and heir of Anthony Bridges, third son of John, the first lord Chandos.*

The petition having been referred to the attorney-general, (Sir Archibald Macdonald,) he, on 15th April 1790, reported to his majesty, that he had found the several allegations, as to the extinction of male issue in the two first lines of descent, to be correct; and the report proceeds to state:—"And I further find, by the before-mentioned pedigree of 1634, in the Visitation of Herefordshire, that Anthony Bridges, the third son of the

“ said John first lord Chandos, intermarried with a  
 “ daughter of — Fortescue, by whom he had a son,  
 “ (namely) Robert, and a daughter Catherine, who inter-  
 “ married with Sir John Astley, of the Palace of Maidstone,  
 “ county of Kent, Knt. ; and I FIND that THE SAID *Robert*  
 “ *Bridges had two children, Edward and Ann Bridges,*  
 “ who were twins, and were baptized 25th March 1603.”  
 “ —And I further find that THE SAID Edward Bridges”  
 [meaning the identical Edward, who was one of the twin  
 children of Robert Bridges, stated to have been baptized in  
 1603] “ intermarried with Catherine Sharpe, at Feversham,  
 “ 18th June 1627.”—“ And I humbly conceive that the  
 “ reverend Edward Tymewell Brydges has PROVED HIM-  
 “ SELF to be the heir male of the body of the said John, first  
 “ lord Chandos of Sudeley, and is, as such, entitled to the  
 “ title and dignity of Baron Chandos of Sudeley, under the  
 “ before-mentioned letters patent of 8th April, in the first  
 “ year of the reign of her late majesty Queen Mary,  
 “ by evidence which, *although not without some difficulty,*  
 “ would be probably deemed SUFFICIENT to prove his title  
 “ to any other species of inheritance, the foundation of  
 “ which was laid so far back as the year 1554. But, inas-  
 “ much as the evidence may, *in some parts of it, be subject*  
 “ *to doubt,* and therefore *may require further investigation*”  
 —the report concludes by recommending a reference of the  
 whole matter to the house of peers\*.

\* The allegations, set forth, in this instance, were probably not so  
 strictly examined as they would have been, had it not been deter-  
 mined to subject the evidence to the inquisition of the peers. The  
 lax, and in some points contradictory, expressions in the report can  
 only be accounted for on this principle.

The case having been, by command of the king, referred, pursuant to this recommendation, the house of peers, on the 27th April 1790, ordered, that the petition, with his majesty's reference annexed and the attorney-general's report thereon, should be referred to the consideration of the lords committees for privileges, who, having considered thereof, and heard such persons concerning the same as they should think fit, were to report their opinion thereupon to the house. The printed cases were delivered in by the claimant's agents on the 4th of May; and it was ordered that the lords committees should meet to consider of the claim on the 2nd of June then next. On the 31st May, however, the order was discharged, and the committee appointed to meet on the 8th of June; but this order was also discharged on the 7th of that month. Upon the claimant's petition presented on the 8th of June, setting forth that the business depending in the house being such as not to admit of the claim being fully heard by the committee before the close of the session, and it being material to receive the testimony of two aged witnesses, Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Thomas Waldron (touching some points connected with the line of the duke of Chandos), it was ordered that the claim be heard at the bar of the house on the following day for the purpose only of examining the said witnesses. On the 9th June those witnesses were examined at some length at the bar of the house. Their evidence was material towards proving the extinction of issue male from Charles Bridges of the Mythe, the next brother of Sir John Bridges, father to James the seventh lord Chandos; and Elizabeth Dowdeswell (who

was then in possession of the Mythe estate under the will of John Bridges, esq. son of the said Charles, and who had died without issue in 1731) exhibited four important letters in support of the points which she had been produced to establish.\*

The first hearing before the lords committees for privileges took place on the 21st December 1790, the solicitor-general (Sir John Scott) and Mr. I. S. Harvey appearing as of counsel for the claim, and the attorney-general (Sir A. Macdonald) on behalf of the crown.

After reception of the ordinary proofs of the creation and sitting, and of the evidence relating to the two prior lines of descent down to the death of the duke of Chandos without issue male, the following evidence was produced, on the 17th February 1791, in support of the claimant's pedigree, † viz.

1. Copy of a monumental inscription in Maidstone church, in memory of Sir John Astley, stating, that he married Catherine the daughter of Anthony Bridges, brother to Edmund baron Chandos,

\* It appeared by these letters (one of which, sans date, was from John Bridges of the Mythe to the earl of Caernarvon, afterwards duke of Chandos, and the other three from that nobleman to the said John Bridges) that the duke had been occupied in endeavouring to trace the genealogy of the family, and, in particular, of that part of it which had settled in Gloucestershire; and that he considered, in 1718, the said Mr. Bridges as the next heir male, failing his own two sons, the reverend Henry Bridges, his brother, and James Bridges of Pinner, the only son of Henry. The duke, in 1721, says, "I was not a little pleased to see you wrote your name *Bruges*, which is the true and ancient name of the family; and, as you have begun it, I'll pursue it, and my sons shall continue to spell theirs in the same manner."—*Lords' Journals*, vol. xxxviii. p. 682.

† Vide Pedigree II, at the end of the volume.



by whom he had issue divers children, who all died before him; and that he (Sir John) died 26th January 1639, [1639-40].

2. Copy of an entry in the parish register of All Saints Maidstone of the burial of Robert Brydges, esq. 15th July 1636.

3. Copy of an entry, in the same register, of the baptism of Edward and Ann, son and daughter of Robert Brydges, esq. 25th March 1603.

4. Original will of Sir John Astley, containing the abovementioned bequests to Ann, otherwise Agnes Bridges.

5. Parole testimony, that All Saints' register contains only one besides the above two entries of the name of Brydges, viz., the baptism of an *Alexander Bridges* in 1543.

6 to 15. Copy of an entry in the parish register of Faversham, in Kent, proving the marriage of the claimant's ancestors, Edward Brydges and Katherine Sharpe, on 18th June 1627; and of other entries in the same and other registers, with further documents, proving the descent of the claimant, and that he is the heir male of the bodies of the said Edward and Katherine.

On the 18th February 1791, parole testimony was received. The claimant's mother\* was produced to prove that she had heard her husband say that he was of the Chandos family; and also to identify two funeral

\* Mrs. Jemima Brydges (daughter and co-heir of William Egerton, LL.D.) who, according to the "Autobiography," vol. I. p. 206, "paid all the expenses of the claim."

escocheons† which had been in Wootton House at the time of her marriage, one of them exhibiting the arms of her husband's grandfather, together with those of Ockman, into which family he had married.‡ The reverend George Lefroy, who had married a sister of the claimant, gave evidence to the same effect as the preceding witness; and Mr. Richard Harvey proved that the arms purporting to be those of Ockman were on a tombstone at Coldred. Windsor Herald proved that the mark of filial distinction (a mullet) in the Bridges' arms upon one of the escocheons, was that of the third house.

The counsel for the claimant then stated to the committee *that they had no further evidence to offer.*

The attorney-general (Sir A. Macdonald) prayed for time to allow him to have an actual inspection of the original parochial registers, from which *copies* of entries had been given in evidence, he being instructed that such inspection would be very material; and the farther hearing of the case was thereupon adjourned *sine die.*

† Appendix, n. IV.

‡ Appendix, n. V.

## SECTION II.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENERAL EFFECT OF THE EVIDENCE  
TO THE 18th FEBRUARY 1791.

UPON a review of the evidence, at the conclusion of the claimant's case at this period, it seems as incredible that the framers of it should have imagined the durability of a fabric constructed with such weak materials, as that the official law-adviser of the crown should have recommended the reference of a claim so wholly destitute of the requisite proof. For, admitting that the failure of issue male from the two eldest sons of the first possessor of the dignity had been established—that Anthony Bridges, the third son, had only *one* son Robert, or that he was his heir—that this Robert married, and was the same Robert who had a son Edward, and a daughter Ann, baptized at Maidstone in 1603, and the same Robert who was buried at that place in 1636—can it be affirmed that a tittle of evidence had been produced to identify the Edward, so baptized in 1603, with *the* Edward Bridges of Ospringe, the claimant's ancestor, and the husband of Katherine Sharpe in 1627? It had, indeed, been proved that the claimant was the lineal descendant and heir of Edward and Katherine; but, between the family at Ospringe and the family at Maidstone, there was nothing in common except the name. Two isolated pieces of evidence were to connect the claimant with the

baronial house of Chandos—the hearsay of his mother and brother-in-law, and the use of the Chandos arms on escocheons, presumed to have been used at the funerals of his grandfather and great-grandfather, in which the insertion of the *mullet* (the distinction of the third branch), may or may not have been contemporaneous with the original painting.

## SECTION III.

RESUMPTION OF THE CLAIM AFTER AN INTERVAL OF  
THREE YEARS.

THREE years were suffered to elapse before the claimant thought fit, under an impression, doubtless, of the insufficiency of the evidence before the committee, to solicit a further hearing. During that interval, however, new evidence of an extraordinary nature had been collected in support of the claim.

At the fifth hearing, on the 10th April 1794, after the production of an indenture, dated in 1709, in further confirmation of the claimant's descent from Edward Bridges and Katherine Sharpe, (of which ample proof had already been produced to the committee in 1791,) and after the claimant's counsel had been asked whether they had searched for the will of John Bridges, the son of Edward, and they had stated that they had not been able to find a will of that person;\* the perpetual curate of Owre, near Feversham, was examined to prove that the register of that parish, antecedent to the year 1714, had been lost; and Mr. William Cullen thereupon produced, from the registry of the Consistory Court of Canterbury, a document, purporting to be the duplicate or transcript of the register

\* Appendix, n. VI.

so missing, for the year from Lady-day 1640 to the same feast in 1641.\*

From this paper the following extracts were read, viz :—

“ Married William Best, gent. and Anne Bridges, of Maydeston, May 1,” and,

“ Baptized, Ashley, the sonne of Mr. William Best, and Anne, his wife, March 14.”

Then the attorney-general (Sir John Scott), counsel for the claimant, stated that he would next produce, for the claimant, a receipt found by Mr. Egerton Brydges, the claimant's brother, amongst the family papers, dated 3rd April 1643, and purporting to have been given by William Best to his brother Edward Bridges for 40*l.*; but the witness to prove the manner of the discovery of this paper not being at hand, he was ordered to attend at the next sitting of the committee.

A copy was then produced of an entry in the register of the parish of St. George, Canterbury, as follows :—

“ Edward Bridges, gent. buried August 28th, 1646.”†

The attorney-general stated that he would next produce the archbishop of Canterbury's duplicate of the register of the parish of All Saints Maidstone, in the year 1603, con-

\* For a copy of the paper purporting to be the Owre or Ore transcript, see Appendix, n. VII.

† There is no observation in the Minutes tending to show why this extract was produced. Edward, the claimant's ancestor, had been always supposed to have been, and was in fact, buried at Feversham, in 1665. It now, however, became necessary, in anticipation of the unavoidable production of the commission of administration of the effects of Lady Astley, to assert that Edward, her supposed nephew, died before 1648, the date of that commission.

taining the entry of the baptism of Edward and Ann Bridges, which he said it would be material to attend to; the entry in the original parish register, which he would again produce, having appeared upon the former inspection, and still appearing to be in recent ink, and as if written over the original entry, which had been partly defaced by time. A witness accordingly produced the original register together with the duplicate.\*

In the printed minutes of the committee, it is then stated that "the lords inspected both, and found the several entries exactly correspond; but it appeared that the letters of the original entry had been marked over again with ink, and also that the letters of several other entries in the original register, which had no relation to this subject, had likewise been marked over again with ink.†" See a copious note on the Maidstone register in Appendix, n. VIII.

In the committee, 15th April 1794, parole testimony was given by Lady Caroline Leigh and Lady Catherine Stanhope, both of the family of the duke of Chandos; the effect of which was that those ladies had heard a Mr. James Bridges, of Pinner, a cousin, express a vague opinion that, in the event of the duke and himself dying without

\* The editor never saw "the Maidstone duplicate," but it has been reported to him as a suspicious paper. He should have desired the opportunity of comparing the hand-writing with that of the Owre duplicate.

† Upon what authority the insertion, within inverted commas, was made; and how that, which seems a *decision*, could have found its way into the Minutes in the character of *evidence*, is, at this day, inexplicable! It is, besides, not true that several other entries in the register have been marked over with ink.

male issue, a Mr. Bridges of Kent would have a claim to the peerage if he should choose to prefer it.

Mr. Egerton Brydges was then examined respecting the manner of the discovery of the receipt for 40*l.*, alluded to at the last hearing. He produced on this occasion a small box, and said that his elder brother had, in his presence, found therein the paper in question.

“ Where did you find that box ? ”

“ My elder brother, in consequence of a desire we expressed to him at the end of the former hearing,” [18th Feb. 1791,] “ looked over his papers again, and appointed a day with us to come over and look at them: he had always kept them locked up in a room up stairs, which had been a chamber in my father’s time, but to which he said he removed them when the house underwent a repair in the summer after my father’s death.”

“ Did you look into that room ? ”

“ No, I was never admitted into that room: but my brother threw together, in a basket, a great quantity of papers, such as he thought might by possibility not have been seen before; and they were brought together into a room, called the book-room, at Wootton, where we all looked over them together. When we came to this box, my brother read the outside superscription, and asked me ‘ if I had ever heard the name before.’ It is written on, ‘ the administration of Clement Marketman: goods and things thereunto belonging of greatest consequence.’ I was very anxious to have the



“ box inspected, though I did not know the connexion with Marketman, and cannot make it out still, yet I thought we ought to look into it.”

(Q. by a lord.) “ Is the whole inscription the same writing?”

“ Yes. My brother then opened it himself in our presence, that is, in the presence of myself and my brother John; and, upon turning over the papers *one by one*, in some short time he found this. It appeared, when we came to open the box, that, though there were few papers of Marketman’s, there were a great many relating to all, or the greater part, of our alliances.”

“ You found that paper in that box?”

“ Yes, my brother delivered it out of the box.”

Then the witness read the paper, as follows:

“ Received, April 3d, 1643, of my brother, Mr. Edward Bridges, the summe of fortye pounds, due to my wyfe from my cozen Hamlynes.  
“ I say, received the summe of 40*l*.

“ Per me William Best.”

Mr. Egerton Brydges, after having, in answer to questions put to him, stated that he knew of no connexion with the Hamlynes or Marketmans, then produced two parchments from his brother’s private room at Wootton, the one being a plan of a farm from a measurement in 1682; and the other a release by his grandmother Jane Bridges, dated in 1713,\* sealed with the arms and crest

\* Why the plan of a farm should have been *sealed*, is not mentioned. Jane Bridges sealed her will in 1729 with the arms of *Turner*, the name of one of the attesting witnesses to the will.

of the Chandos family, with the distinction of the third branch.

He then replied to a question, that he recollected seeing a copy of his great-grandfather John's will amongst the family papers, but that he had never made any search for it.\*

He had also sought in vain for any settlement on the marriage of Anthony Bridges with Katherine Fortescue, and for the will or administration of either of them; and that his searches for the latter purpose had been at Canterbury,† Gloucester, Hereford, and Sarum.

Mr. Egerton Brydges further stated, that he had not been able to find any marriage settlement, will, or administration of Robert, the son of Anthony Bridges.

Upon being asked whether he had searched for any will or administration of lady Astley, he answered,

“ I HAVE; BUT NEVER COULD FIND ANY.”‡

“ Or of Edward, the supposed son of Robert and his wife ?”

“ I have; but never could find any.”

Mr. E. Brydges then produced three deeds, of 20th Dec., 7th Jan., and 16th Feb. 1635, in which the parties were described, “ Edward Bridges, of the town of Fever-sham, in the county of Kent, *yeoman*, and his wife “ Katherine.” It was remarked that in one of them the said Edward signed his name “ *Ed. Bridge.*”

\* See note in Appendix VI.

† At *Canterbury* the witness *might*, during these searches, have found the will of his ancestor John.

‡ Compare this answer with his subsequent examination on this point, on 21st April 1795, *page 27.*

The following questions were then put to Mr. Egerton Brydges.

“ Did you give instructions for the petition to his  
“ majesty?”

“ I did.”

“ In that petition, Edward, the son of Robert, is  
“ stated to have died in 1665; and, in the appendix  
“ to the printed case, delivered by the claimant, to  
“ have died in 1646?”

“ That arose from this mistake. I had never seen  
“ the Feversham register; and when the Feversham  
“ register was produced, it was palpable that the  
“ person there mentioned to be buried, was not  
“ *Bridges*, but *Burges* :\* we, therefore, concluded we  
“ were wrong in that supposition; and we looked  
“ elsewhere. I was convinced he must have died  
“ many years before; and therefore we looked where-  
“ ever we thought it probable: we looked to the  
“ parish to which his son removed; and, in the next  
“ parish to that; and in that next parish we did  
“ find the true description.”

After some further examination touching the custody of his father's papers at Wootton, Mr. Egerton Brydges was asked—

“ How many families of the name of Bridges do  
“ you know of in Kent?”

“ Two more, I recollect: one is Sir Brook Bridges,

\* The name alluded to in the Feversham register is “*Briges*” and not “*Burges*.”

“ and the other a family of farmers in the Isle of Thanet.”

“ None inferior ?”

“ I remember an old schoolmaster at Canterbury :

“ I do not recollect any other.”

“ Is it known of what profession Mr. Best was ?”

“ Not at all ; because we did not know he was married.”\*

“ Was he ever talked of in the family ?”

“ I should think he was the son of a family of that name—a younger son ; and that he lived upon what little estate he had, in the style of a gentleman who farmed his own estate.” †

“ What kind of papers were the others that came down” [*i. e.* from the private room at Wootton] “ in the basket ?”

“ Deeds and small receipts — every species of papers.”

“ Anything else that at all affected this question ?”

“ Not one. In that box, when we came to look into it, there were all sorts of papers, not belonging to the Marketmans. The same papers are in the box now.”

The lords, upon this intimation, inspected the several

\* This answer is probably incorrectly reported in the Minutes. The purport of it must have been, that the witness did not previously know of such a marriage in his family.

† A most unaccountable answer, if at all accurately reported. For how could the witness, or any of his family, have any knowledge of the style of living of a person who was but recently discovered to have married into the family, so far back as 1641 ?

papers in the box ; and, amongst others, their lordships found a paper,\* directed as follows :—

“ To my Cozen,  
 “ Mrs. Anne Best,  
 “ To be left att  
 “ Mr. John ——  
 “ In Faversham,  
 “ Kent.”

The contents of the paper not being legible to the naked eye, the counsel for the claimant were directed to have the same examined with glasses, against the next sitting of the committee.

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At the next hearing, 21st April 1795, Mr. Charles Abbott,† for the claimant, produced the letter which had been found by their lordships, at the former sitting, in the box delivered in by Mr. Egerton Brydges ; and read the same as follows :—

“ To my Cozen,  
 Mrs. Anne Best  
 To be left att  
 Mr. John (The next word the witness believed to be *Barnes*)  
 In *Faversham*, these.”

“ Cozen Best  
 “ I am verrie sorrrie to bee the bearer off bad newse to

\* As the papers in the box had been, as Mr. Egerton Brydges declared at the former hearing, examined, “one by one,” by himself and his brothers, it seems strange that they should have, at that time, overlooked a document upon which their whole case mainly rested.

† Afterwards lord Tenterden.

“ you but my Cozen Gibbons will beare mee witnesse y<sup>t</sup> I  
 “ have not spared my endeavours aboute y<sup>e</sup> affaire you  
 “ trusted me w<sup>th</sup> (The witness said the word ‘with’ is a  
 “ contraction, and so are many other words.) Cozen Gib-  
 “ bons has bine along w<sup>e</sup> with mee more than once to y<sup>e</sup>  
 “ Palace but my Ladye since shee knowes our businesse  
 “ refuses to see mee Aboute five Weekes past w<sup>ch</sup> is y<sup>e</sup>  
 “ last time I was suffered to talke w<sup>th</sup> her upon the subject  
 “ shee spoke in high wrathe of y<sup>r</sup> imprudence & ungrate-  
 “ ful behaviour and sayde moreover y<sup>t</sup> it was all a wicked  
 “ planne betweene you & y<sup>r</sup> Brother to deceive her whoe  
 “ had alwayse bin as a mother to you att a time y<sup>r</sup> poore  
 “ father had scarce where to lay his head Shee sayde you  
 “ would have shewne more respecte to y<sup>e</sup> memorie off S<sup>ir</sup>  
 “ John whoe was y<sup>r</sup> beste ffriende by following his advice  
 “ then by christeninge y<sup>e</sup> childe by his name w<sup>ch</sup> shee calls  
 “ a paltrye tricke to winne her ffavour Soe it is a hartie  
 “ grieffe to mee y<sup>t</sup> i see noe hopes y<sup>t</sup> my Ladye will be re-  
 “ conciled to you or y<sup>r</sup> husbände my deare kinsman whose  
 “ happinesse as well as y<sup>r</sup>s I doe moste hartily praye for.

“ I remaine Deare Cozen

“ June 7, 1641.

Y<sup>r</sup> sincre kinsman

John Knatchbull.”

The following questions were put to, and answered by,  
 the witness :—

“ Have you looked through the other papers, con-  
 “ tained in the box at the time when that was taken  
 “ out of the box by one of their lordships, the last  
 “ time the committee met ?”

“ I have.”

“ Have you found any papers material to the question now before their lordships ?”

“ None at all.”

“ Have you had occasion to make any searches among the papers of the claimant, at his house or elsewhere ?”

“ Yes, at Wootton, in Kent.”

“ Do you believe it to have been so general, that if there had been any paper material to lay before their lordships, you must have seen it ?”

“ I conceive that I have. I will state the manner in which the search was made. I went down to Wootton, for the purpose of making that search in company with the claimant, Mr. Brydges. Mr. Harvey joined us on the road, and went to Wootton with us. We there looked over a very great number of deeds and papers of different kinds, thrown promiscuously together. We afterwards went into the room at Wootton which was spoken of before. I looked into the drawers and different places there, and searched in a manner which to us, at that time, was satisfactory. I summarily inspected the purport of every deed and paper which showed any connexion between the claimant's family and any other of his name in that county, except the deeds relating to the estate of Katherine Sharpe.”

“ Was you present when the receipt produced was found ?”

“ I was not on that occasion.”

“ What other papers are those which you have in  
“ your hand ?”

Then the witness produced a paper, and said,

“ This is one of the deeds found in the course of  
“ the search.”

The instrument produced was an indenture, dated 7th April 1659, between John Bridges, of Canterbury, grocer, of the one part, and Samuel Bright, of the same place, grocer, of the other part ; to lead the uses of a recovery to be suffered of certain messuages and parcels of land in Luddenham and other places, heretofore the lands of John Sharpe, late of Faversham, deceased, grandfather of the said John Bridges, and afterwards of Katherine, daughter of the said John Sharpe, and mother of the said John Bridges ; to the only use of the said John Bridges, and his heirs and assigns for ever.

Then the counterpart of an indenture, dated 8th October 1684, between John Bridges, of the city of Canterbury, grocer, and Mary his wife, and Nicholas Franklyn, of Staplegate, within the walls of the said city, tanner, and Margaret his wife, (which said Mary and Margaret are two of the daughters of Thomas Young, late of the parish of Holy Cross, Westgate, near the walls of the said city, grocer, deceased,) of the one part, and Squier Beverton, the younger, of Canterbury, Gent. of the other part ; being a release to Beverton and his heirs of a messuage devised to Mary and Margaret and their heirs by the will of their father.

Upon cross-examination, the witness said that he did not find any settlement upon the marriage of Edward Bridges and Katherine Sharpe, or upon the marriage of



John Bridges with Ockman the first wife, or Young the second wife.

The will of John Sharpe, of Faversham, maltster, was then produced from the archdeacon's registry at Canterbury. It was dated 14th September 1615, and proved by Mary the relict and executrix on the 5th of the following month, and devised to his wife, in trust for his daughter and apparently only child (whom the testator does not mention by name), at her age of eighteen, and to the heirs of her body, his house at Faversham, and all his houses, lands, and tenements in the county of Kent.

Then a transcript of the will of Sir John Astley, of Maidstone, in the county of Kent, Knt. master of his majesty's office of the revels, and one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, dated 3rd January 1639, and proved 10th February following, was delivered in from the prerogative office, Doctors' Commons. The bequest to Ann or Agnes Bridges, niece of the testator's wife, dame Katherine, has already been alluded to. Mention is made of his wife's jointure; and all his silver plate and household furniture in his house, called the Palace, at Maidstone, are bequeathed to her.

The original will of the claimant's great-grandfather, John Bridges, of the city of Canterbury, grocer, was produced from the archdeaconry of Canterbury, dated 3rd May, a codicil dated 5th November, and proved 22nd December 1699. The testator names his sons John, Edward, and Thomas, and gives to his sister Mary, the wife of Symon Millen, an annuity of 10*l.* out of his farm in Chislett, in Kent.

Then an officer from the prerogative court in Doctors'

Commons produced an office copy of divers proceedings to obtain administration of the goods and chattels of lady Astley.\*

Mr. Charles Abbott was again called in, and asked whether, at the time when he made the search amongst the claimant's papers, he had been referred to any other person, and to any other papers which had been in the claimant's house? To which he answered :—

“ It struck me, after the search was made, that I  
 “ did not find any deeds—I mean any purchase-deeds  
 “ of estates bought by John Bridges. Conceiving he  
 “ had been the purchaser of several different estates,  
 “ I mentioned to Mr. Egerton Brydges, the next time  
 “ I saw him, my surprise at not having found deeds  
 “ of that description at Wootton. He informed me  
 “ that they had been taken away by himself; and  
 “ they were afterwards sent by him for my inspection,  
 “ accompanied with some other deeds, which I be-  
 “ lieve related to the family of Coppin, or Gibbon;  
 “ but I cannot speak with accuracy as to the other  
 “ deeds. I had no observation to make upon the  
 “ deeds of the estates purchased by Mr. John Bridges;  
 “ I inquired after them to satisfy my own mind.”

Then Mr. Egerton Brydges was again examined as follows :—

“ Did you take from the house of your brother, the

\* The proceedings so produced were, by some strange neglect, omitted to be then printed amongst the other evidence. The relative extracts from the record, since removed from the prerogative office to Lambeth Palace, were afterwards given regularly in evidence and printed; and they will be found in the Appendix, note IX.

“ claimant, the deeds which the last witness has referred to ?”

“ I did.”

“ Have you any reason to believe that any papers were taken from the house of your brother, which you found there upon your search, except those deeds which you afterwards sent to Mr. Abbott, in consequence of his inquiry ?

“ None. When they were inquired after, I was a little frightened, for I thought they had been mislaid ; and I went down to Canterbury on purpose to look for them. They were all in a box, in which they had been put, in the house of Mrs. Birch, my mother-in-law, at Canterbury.”

“ Have you any reason to believe that any of the papers, an imperfect search amongst which you made, had been removed before the search by Mr. Abbott ?”

“ None. I have no doubt.”

*Cross-examined.*

“ When did you first hear of the contested administration of lady Astley ?”

“ Mr. Townsend told me of it, I think, *at the end of the year* 1789. I made a remark to him, that it was very singular, that though I had been in that office so often, I should never find that administration ; and, I added, that I would then go and search for it. Mr. Townsend answered, it was not in the common room ; it was in a room I could not get at, but which he could from his private

“acquaintance with the clerks. From that time I  
“never thought any more about it for a great while.  
“I do not exactly know what time; because, when I  
“came to consider it, I thought if such adminis-  
“tration did exist, it did not affect the case; because  
“I had reason to think that Edward, the son of  
“Robert, was not then living. After Mr. Townsend’s  
“conduct induced me not to have the same confi-  
“dence in him I formerly had, I went to Sir William  
“Scott, and requested the favour of him to get me  
“admission into the private room. I went up-stairs,  
“and inquired for any administrations that might not  
“be down-stairs; I could find none, and the clerk  
“told me there were none. I then asked what the  
“books were that stood round the room: they told  
“me they were various proceedings regarding their  
“courts. I looked through the indexes till it was  
“very late, almost time for the court to shut; and I  
“hit upon part of the proceedings now brought forward.  
“I looked at them, and did not understand them;  
“but instantly asked the clerk again, whether there  
“was any [more]; he told me there were none but  
“what were down-stairs. I was not satisfied with the  
“answer of the clerk above-stairs, because he was a  
“very young man. I went down to some of the  
“other clerks; and they all assured me there were  
“none but what were down-stairs. I then gave the  
“search up.”

“Did you learn anything relative to the proceed-  
“ings of the administration?”

“ Very little. I found there were proceedings between John Bridges and the countess of Exeter ; but I never found that they proceeded to an administration : and I the less searched after it ; because, upon looking into the pedigree and the next of kinship, if Edward, as formerly believed, was dead, the administration could not affect at all ; because John, the son of Edward, *was exactly in the same degree of kindred* with John, to whom it was said to have been granted.”

“ At what time did you make the search you are now mentioning ?”

“ I think it was *in February* 1791, as far as I can recollect.”

“ Have you found amongst your family papers any traces of a marriage settlement between Edward and Katherine Sharpe ?”

“ None whatsoever.”

“ Or any will or administration of Edward ?”

“ None whatever.”

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At the next and eighth hearing, 12th May 1795, it was proposed, on the part of the crown, to put in evidence a manuscript book, in the possession of Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, (and, since that officer's death, deposited amongst similar books in the library of the Heralds' College,) described as a herald-painter's work-book ; although it contained, in addition to sketches and minutes of funeral escocheons prepared by a herald-painter, from 1639 to

1641 inclusive, (such entries forming but a small portion of the contents of the book,) a variety of miscellaneous information, such as pedigrees, grants of arms, and a copy of part of an heraldic visitation-book of Hampshire, in the year 1575. The book, which is thus indorsed, "C 3. P. W. B. *Miscell. Pedig. and Hants Vis.*" 1575, &c.," had been about twenty-five years in the private library of Sir Isaac Heard, who, upon his examination, stated that he believed he had received it from Mr. Bigland, his predecessor in the office of Garter; but that it had theretofore belonged to Mr. Anstis, also Garter. The funeral work entered in the book was stated by the witness to be on the folios, from 30 to 32<sup>b</sup>, and at p. 48<sup>b</sup>; that the entries follow each other in regular succession in point of date; and that having, upon a comparison of the greater part of them with pedigrees and evidences relating to the families to which they referred, found them to agree therewith, he considered that they had been made under some instructions from the heralds of the day.

But, as the book offered in evidence did not appear to be an official record, and the attorney-general (Sir John Scott) having, on behalf of the claimant, objected to its admission, and prayed time to make inquiries concerning the nature of the same; the solicitor-general (Sir John Mitford), on behalf of the crown, was directed to proceed, in the interim, with the rest of the evidence.\*

Then Mr. Harrison, from the prerogative office, was called

\* For extracts applicable to the case, from the herald-painters' work-book, the reception of which in evidence was so suspended, see Appendix, n. X.

in, and produced from that office the original will of Ann Jackson, alias Bridges, of London, widow, dated 12th October 1641, and proved at London 6th November in the same year.

The will being read by Mr. Townsend, was found to contain the following bequests, viz :—

“ *First, I give and bequeath TO MY AUNT, THE  
LADY ASTLEY, for to buy her mourninge, the  
summe of tenn poundes.*”

“ *Item, I give and bequeath to the poore of the  
parishes of MAIDSTONE, Horton, Framingham,  
and the parish wherein my Corps shall be buried,  
the sume of tenn pounde, to be distributed at the  
discretion of my executor and overseer.*”

It was signed Ann Jackson alias Bridges, and sealed with the arms of the noble house of Bridges, with a *Mullet* on the cross for difference.\*

Then the witness said :

“ There is an impression of a seal upon a wafer,  
which I take to be the arms of *Bridges* ; and upon  
the back it is indorsed thus, *Paroch: Sce. Bridgettæ.*”

Then the witness was asked :

“ When did you first know of the existence of the  
will just read ?”

“ I first saw the record of this will upon or about  
the 3rd of May 1794.”

“ Had you any reason to know that such a will  
existed before the 3rd day of May 1794 ?”

\* See a full copy of this will, and a fac-simile of the impression of the seal, in the Appendix, n. XI.

“Not the most distant idea?” said John J.

A transcript of the will, so produced, was then exhibited by the officer from the prerogative office, as entered in the register of that court, in which original wills are transcribed.

Then the Reverend JOHN PRIDGEN, curate of the parish of St. Bridget or St. Bride, Fleet-Street, produced a register of marriages, christenings, and burials, from the year 1587 to the year 1653, of the parish of Saint Bride, London; and, being desired to look at the entry in November 1641, of Ann Bridges, and to state when and by whom the same had been made, answered:

“ I believe I made this entry in the register about the year 1786. It is not in the original register.”

“ How came you to make that entry?”

“ Merely as an addition to this register, to supply a defect in addition to a number of other defects, and to make the register as complete as possible.”

“ From what did you make that entry?”

“ It is taken from the churchwarden’s account-book of Saint Bride’s.”

Then the witness produced a book, and said:

“ This is the account-book, beginning in the year 1639-40.”

And read from the same, as follows:

“ *The accounts of Thomas Robinson and Thomas Church, churchwardens of the parish of St. Bridget, alias Bride’s, the Virgin, in Fleet Street, from Easter week 1641 to Easter week 1642.*”

Then the witness said,



“ Under the article of receipts for pits and knells,  
 “ are a variety of entries respecting persons who  
 “ have been buried in that parish, and those *who have*  
 “ *had the bell tolled for them, though buried out of the*  
 “ *parish.* Among these entries of receipts there are  
 “ a great many names indeed that do not occur in  
 “ the original register: and I give greater credit to  
 “ these accounts of the churchwardens, inasmuch as  
 “ they contain a specific, and generally a weekly,  
 “ account of money received by the parish clerk, or  
 “ some other person, to be accounted for to the  
 “ churchwardens of the parish: the parish at present,  
 “ and I presume formerly, having a lease of the great  
 “ tithes thereof from the dean and chapter of West-  
 “ minster.”

Then the witness read from the book the following  
 entry:

“ ‘ *Item, for the burial of Ann Bridges, and*  
 “ *for the knell, being a stranger, 13s. 4d.*’

“ Under what date is that entry?”

“ It is under the general list of entries of that  
 “ species during the whole of the year.”

“ What is the date of it?”

“ I believe the date of this entry to be *November*  
 “ *6th, 1641,* from the names adjoining, which cor-  
 “ respond with the names of that date in the original  
 “ register.”

“ What is the name immediately before it?”

“ In this receipt is the name of *Elizabeth* daughter  
 “ of *Richard Studbury.*”

- “ What is the entry in the original register ?”
- “ *Elizabeth* daughter of *William Studbury*.”
- “ What precedes the name of *Studbury* in the receipt book ?”
- “ Item, for a coffin, in the lower ground, of *Mary Radford*.”
- “ In the register she appears on the 6th day of November, *Mary* daughter of *William Radford* ?”
- “ What is the entry in the receipt book after *Ann Bridges* ?”
- “ Item, for pit, in the lower ground, of *Elizabeth Robinson*, pensioner.”
- “ In the register, 6th November, *Elizabeth Robesson*, pensioner.”
- “ What do you understand to be meant by the entry ‘ *stranger* ?’ ”
- “ I apprehend she was not a parishioner, but sojourned there only a little time; neither housekeeper nor inmate.”
- “ Have you any entry of her being carried to St. Faith’s that night ?”
- “ No.”
- “ Do you make entry of such facts ?”
- “ If known.”

Mr. Pridden then stated, in answer to questions put to him, that he had had the custody of this register since about 1784, and that he had been applied to by Sir Isaac Heard, accompanied by Mr. Townsend, for the search concerning *Ann Bridges*, some time, as he recollected, in the summer before the last; in, but not before, 1793.

“Did you understand by that entry, that that person was not buried in the parish?”

“I conclude so, because they are inserted, if buried in some particular part.”

“But whether they are buried in the parish or not, the same fee is paid?”

“Yes, if the bell tolls.”

Upon being again asked as to the time when the search had been made by Sir Isaac Heard, he appeared to be not certain that it was not in 1794; but said it was on a *Sunday*.

(*Q. by one of the lords.*) “Are the entries in the register made where they should have been at first?”

“Yes, in my hand.”

“Do not you mean to make an entry of your having so done?”

“Sometime about the year 1784, I discovered this book in a back closet where coals and rubbish are kept. I looked over it, and observing a number of names of consequence, I thought it proper to pay great attention to it; and I have corrected it where I could. No documents come earlier than 1640. And I was proceeding to take whatever I could find to illustrate the register. I had begun to transcribe this great book; and, when I had completed it, I meant to go before a master in chancery and take an affidavit, to transmit it to posterity as perfect as possible.”

(*Q. by counsel for claimant.*) “Did you observe that this book itself is a copy?”

"There is a vast variety of writings in it. We never make entries day after day, or week after week: we have a rough-book to enter in first, but make the entries once a month, sometimes once a quarter."

Then SIR ISAAC HEARD was called in, and asked:

"When did you make application for inspection of the register of St. Bride's?"

"I set down a minute of it at the time, and the words are 'Sunday, 4th of May 1794.' In the register of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, in the custody of the Rev. Mr. Pridden, inserted by himself from an old loose paper—'1641, burials, Nov 16th Ann Bridges, a stranger.'"

*Cross-examined.*

"What induced you to look at that register?"

"That will, which has been here, was an index to it."

"When did you first see that will, which has that indorsement upon it?"

"The 3rd of May 1794."

"What led you to know that such a will existed?"

"I am continually searching in the Prerogative Office."

"Do you mean to say you found it by accidental search? What previous reason had you to suppose it was there?"

"Yes."

After other questions to the same effect had been put to this witness, and answered, MR. TOWNSEND was asked when he had made the search at St. Bride's? The witness produced a memorandum, made at the time, in the following words:

"An old register of St. Bride's, London, is now, on the 4th May 1794, in the house of the Rev. Mr. Pridden, the curate, to be rebound. In the register of burials 1641, is the following:—'November 1641, Ann Bridges, a stranger.' This entry has been made lately\* by the Rev. Mr. Pridden, the present curate, from some old papers of the clerk's, which, Mr. Pridden says, appear to be accounts of fees and dues received by the clerk, and settled with the minister.—Note, there are many such additional entries. Sunday 4th May 1794.'"

At this sitting of the committee, the counsel for the crown tendered proofs in support of a pedigree of the descendants of John Bridges, of St. Michael's Harbledown, (a village adjacent to Canterbury,) who died in 1646.†

The register of that parish was produced by JOHN OAKENFELL, cordwainer, who stated that he performed the duties of parish clerk there for his father, then in the East Kent militia; and, being desired to look at an entry in the register in the year 1606, which appeared to be partly obliterated, he said that he could not read it—that he did

\* Mr. Pridden had stated, in 1786,

† See Pedigree III. at the end of the Appendix.

not remember it in a different state ~~but that he did not~~  
remember the book ~~about two years~~ ago.

Upon his cross-examination, the witness said that he had never before cast his eye upon the blot which concealed the entry, and did not know how the obliteration happened; that the book is usually kept in the church chest, in a place not very damp, and under lock and key; and, being asked by the counsel for the claimant, whether he recollected "any body applying for it and being very much with it?" the witness replied: "Yes. Mr. Townsend was down, and about two hours with it."

Then Mr. JOHN COLMAN, schoolmaster, of St. Nicholas at Wade, in the isle of Thanet, was called in and examined as follows:

"Do you know Mr. Bridges, of the isle of Thanet?"

"Yes."

"Where is he now?"

"In Wales."

"Do you remember him in the year 1791?"

"Yes, very well."

"Did he employ you for any thing about his family?"

"He desired I would examine the registers in different places, and trace his name as far as I could."

"Did you examine the register of St. Michael, Harbledown?"

"Yes."

"Did you find any entry of the year 1606, of which you took any note?"

The witness produced a book, and was asked

“Is that your hand-writing?”

“Yes.”

Then the witness read from the same the following entry

“The next I found was *Edward Bridge, son of the aforesaid John Bridge and Maria his wife, baptised October 5th 1696.*”

Notice being taken that, in the extract read, the name was *Bridge*, the witness said,

“It should be *Bridges*; I know it was by mistake

“I missed a letter.”

“Did you find, in the register of Harbledown, an

“entry of *Edward Bridges son of John Bridges?*”

“Yes.”

Then a book was shown to the witness, and he was asked,

“Is this the register you searched?”

“Yes.”

“Was there this blot?”

“No, there was not.”

“Was it clear when you took it?”

“Yes.”

“Did you transcribe it yourself?”

“Yes.”

“Did any body assist you in reading it?”

“No; they brought it to me at the *Coach and*

“*Horses*, and *Oakenfull* brought the register to me.

“I was there again after that, and read it over

“again.”

" You have made an entry of *Bridge* are you

" sure it was *Bridget*, and not *Bridg* and *W* "

" I am sure it was *Bridges*." " Now let us see." "

" What is the next entry in your book? "

" The next I found was *Robert*, son of the afore-

" said *John* and *Maria Bridg*,\* baptized *June* 11th,

" 1609." " What is it in the register? "

" In the register it is *Robert Bridges*, son of *John*,

" 11th *June* 1609." " Did you make any search after *Edward Bridges*?

" Read what you have written in the next entry."

" The next was *Thomas Bridg*,† son of the afore-

" said *John* and *Maria Bridg*,‡ baptized *January*

" 31st, 1612." " What is it in the register? "

" *Thomas Bridges*, sonne of *John*, 31st *January*

" 1612."

" Is the whole of your book in your hand-writing? "

" Yes, I took it from the register myself."

" Did you ever see the register at any subsequent

" time? "

" I was there two or three months afterwards."

" How was it then? "

" Just as when I left it. I delivered it to the

" clerk again."

" Do you remember finding the blot that now

" appears in it? "

\* Sic in Orig.

† Sic in Orig.

‡ Sic in Orig.



You have made an entry of Bridson the year

“ When applied first to the law in 1795 ”

“ Never till now ”

The witness was directed to withdraw, and the committee was adjourned.

On the 18th of May 1795, a few days after the above hearing before the committee, the claimant presented his petition to the house of peers, setting forth that evidence against his claim, of the existence and nature of which he and his counsel and agents were wholly unapprised, had been lately produced to their lordships; in consequence of which it would be necessary to exhibit further evidence in support of the claim, which could not be procured in the course of the then session of parliament; and he therefore prayed their lordships to adjourn the further hearing of the claim until the next session.

... to the 10th of March 1801 and soon afterwards the committee was continued till the further hearing. The committee was ordered to have proceeded in the matter and to report to the house on the 10th of March 1801.

**SECTION IV.**

**THE PROCEEDINGS ON THE CLAIM RENEWED IN 1801,  
AFTER A SUSPENSION OF SEVEN YEARS, AND CONTINUED  
UNTIL THE ADJUDICATION IN 1803.**

Six years elapsed after the application in 1795 before any effort was made to renew the proceedings; and the claim was considered to have been wholly relinquished, when, on the 9th December 1801, the claimant, by his petition, represented to the house that he had, in several sessions of parliament, been heard in support of his claim; and that the attorney-general had opened his case on the part of the crown in answer to the petitioner's claim, and was proceeding thereon when their lordships adjourned.

The petitioner, without advertent to the fact that he had himself desired the postponement of the further hearing of his case, stated that he had, on the 3rd February preceding, petitioned their lordships to appoint a day for the revival of the matter; but that, being aware of the great press of business, he had not presumed to urge the same. He, however, prayed their lordships to appoint an early day after the Christmas recess, for proceeding with the claim.

The petition was ordered to lie on the table. On the 4th March 1802, the minutes of the evidence were directed

to be reprinted; and, soon afterwards, the 10th of May was fixed for the further hearing. The committee does not, however, appear to have proceeded in the matter until the 26th of that month.

The business was re-opened on that day by the reception of additional evidence towards substantiating the Harbledown case.

Mr. Townsend being examined respecting the obliterated entry of the baptism, in 1606, of the second son of John Bridges of Harbledown, deposed, that he thought he could perceive enough of the entry to warrant a strong conjecture that the words were "Edward Bridges son of John." He could not ascertain the month; but believed it to be October. The day he was unable to make out.

The attorney-general (the Hon. Spencer Perceval,) stated that the baptism, supposed by the witness to be the baptism of *Edward Bridges*, the son of John, was the baptism of an Edward Bridges who, on the part of the crown, was substituted for *the Edward Bridges* stated in the pedigree of the petitioner; and he begged leave to refer to the evidence of John Colman (printed Minutes pp. 96 and 97,) on the subject.

The burial of *John Bridge*, the father of Edward Bridges, so baptized in 1606, was then proved, from the register, to have taken place on the 11th July 1646; and that of Mary his widow, on the 1st May 1650; the name being then written *Mary Bridges*.

On the cross-examination, Mr. Townsend stated that, in the entry of the baptism of John Bridges, the elder brother

of Edward, in 1600, the name of the father and mother are omitted.

The witness was then asked, by the counsel for the claimant, whether, in the entry of 1606, over which there is a blot, he perceived anything more than the name of Edward, or Edward Bridges, or the name of the father or mother? To this he answered:

“ I think I can perceive the name of John. I first saw this register in the year 1794, and, on the first sight of this part of it, I made this note: ‘ 1606, the first five entries of baptisms in this year have been obliterated by a liquid; but I think I can discern enough of the fourth to support a very strong conjecture that it is Edward Bridges, son of John.’ ”

“ You have stated that there are five entries, of the year 1606, which are in the same condition as the entry which you conjecture to be that of Edward Bridges; and you suppose it to have been done by a liquid. Have you tried any experiments of that kind with liquids?”

“ No, I have not.”

“ How do you know that a liquid will have this effect if you have not tried any experiment?”

“ My judgement arose from the appearance of the

\* The marriage of the father and mother, John Bridges with Maria Avys, is entered, in the register, as having taken place at Harbledown, on the 7th October 1600; and the baptism of John (their eldest son, as presumed,) was on the 10th September in the year following.

“thing itself, that judgement may be wrong; but I see no reason for altering it now. There is, certainly, no *crossure*, as far as my judgement can go; and the ink in many parts, appears to be spread in such a way as, I think, could not be produced by any other mode than the application of a *liquid*.”

*Examined in reply.*

“In 1794 was the first occasion you had to examine this registry? Had you, at that time, any communication with John Colman?”

“I never saw John Colman till he was brought up to town by Mr. Hiram Campbell. Mr. Campbell will be able to state how he found him.”

“Had you at the time you made that memorandum any reason to know that Colman had made the ob-

servations he has delivered in evidence?”

“Not the least; and I was very powerfully struck when I found his evidence establishing that which in me had been nothing but conjecture.”

The baptisms of the other children of John Bridges of Harbledown were then proved from the register.

Mr. Cullen, clerk of the consistory and archdeacon's court at Canterbury, then produced the book of the entry of probates of wills, by which it appeared that the will of John Bridges (the father of Edward) buried at Harbledown, 22nd January 1646, had been proved on the same day.\*

\* See copy of the entry in Appendix, No. XII.

"Have you examined the bundles of original wills,

" where they are kept in that office?"

"I have."

"Have you been able to find the will referred to

" in that probate?"

"I have not."

"Have you compared the number of wills, that are

" to be found of that year, with those which appear

" by that book to have been proved?"

"I have examined, and think I found one or two

" wills missing besides this of *John Bridges*."

"Can you name whose they are?"

"I cannot now."

"Are you quite sure there were any other missing?"

"I think there were one or two, to the best of my

" recollection."

Further extracts from the Harbledown register, and original wills from the registry at Canterbury, relating to persons in the pedigree under proof, were then put in evidence.

The original will of *John Bridges the younger*, of the parish of St. Andrew the Apostle, in the city of Canterbury, grocer, (grandson of *John Bridges*, the eldest son of *John Bridges*, of Harbledown, and *Mary Avis*), dated 27th April 1681, was thereupon read.

The attorney-general here stated, that having produced the will of *John Bridges the younger*, attested by a person of the name of *John Bridges*, he would next re-produce the will of *John Bridges*, the claimant's great-grandfather, already in proof, and request the house to compare the sig-

nature of that will with the signature of the witness to the will of John Bridges the younger.\*

The collation of the two signatures was thereupon made by their lordships.

Mr. Townsend, in reply to a question whether he had made search for any transcript of the Harbledown register, gave an account of a search made by him with that view; but which had proved ineffectual.

After some further evidence from the register of Harbledown, THOMAS LOTT, clerk of the parish of St. Nicholas at Wade, produced the register of the latter parish, from which an entry was read of the burial of John Bridges, (uncle to the abovementioned John Bridges the younger,) 15th October 1669; and Mr. Cullen produced the act book of wills and grants of administration, from 1663 to 1673, and read an entry,† purporting, that the said John Bridges, of St. Nicholas at Wade, had died intestate, and that letters of administration had been thereupon granted of his effects to his brother Thomas Bridges junior, one of whose sureties for the due administration were John Bridges, of the parish of St. Andrew, Canterbury, grocer.‡

At the next and tenth hearing, on 28th May 1802, the attorney-general (Mr. Spencer Perceval) stated to the committee, that he had proceeded with the evidence on the

\* This John Bridges was doubtless described "*the younger*," in order to distinguish him from the claimant's great-grandfather, of the same names, business, and parish.

† See copy of this entry in Appendix, No. XIII.

‡ The surety must have been claimant's great-grandfather; for John Bridges the younger, afterwards grocer in that parish, was at that date only thirteen years of age.

pedigree of Bridges of Harbledown as far as No. 9; and that he now intended to establish the connexion of the Isle of Thanet pedigree, upon which he should not have occasion to trouble their lordships to any extent. The counsel for the claimant thereupon informed the committee that they were ready to admit the Harbledown pedigree, from No. 9 to No. 12, and that, from No. 7, they did not dispute any of the facts.

Mr. Hiram Campbell then produced a copy of a coat of arms, which he had taken from a monument in the church of St. Nicholas at Wade, in memory of Thomas Bridges, Esq., who died 16th December 1777, aged 62, and Anne his second wife, who died 16th May 1758, erected by Thomas Bridges their only child, as appears by an inscription on the said monument.

This Thomas\* Bridges was great-grandson to Thomas Bridges of Harbledown, Kan-maker, the third son of John Bridges of that place, by Mary Avis.

Then Mr. Townsend was called in, and asked:—

“ Are those the arms of the Chandos Bridges’ family?”

“ Yes.”

*Cross-examined* (by Mr. Harvey).

“ Is there any mark of branch in those arms?”

“ Not any.”

“ Have you seen any other monuments in this parish of St. Nicholas at Wade, of the family of Bridges?”

“ I do not recollect that I have. I remember

\* See Pedigree III. in Appendix, in which the name of this individual occurs, under No. 12.



"seeking this; and Mr. Campbell being with me, I  
 "desired him to take a copy of it, which he did;  
 "You did not use any other monuments of the  
 "family of Bridges in St. Nicholas at Wade church  
 "or churchyard?"  
 "I do not recollect that I did. In truth, I was  
 "not searching for them there. My chief purpose in  
 "visiting St. Nicholas at Wade, was to ascertain,  
 "if I could, whether there was the consanguinity, I  
 "had heard there was, between the family who  
 "resided in that parish and the family of the claimant.  
 "I saw this monument, and perceiving that the arms  
 "of the Chandos family were there, without any dis-  
 "tinction at all, it occurred to me, that if that family  
 "and the family of the claimant had really sprung  
 "from the same common ancestor, the person, for  
 "whom that monument was erected, must be of the  
 "elder branch of the family; as far as inference  
 "could be drawn from the use of a coat of arms;  
 "and therefore I thought proper to take notice  
 "of it."

"Did you find in the parish church or churchyard  
 "at St. Nicholas anything which did connect the  
 "family of the claimant with the family at St.  
 "Nicholas?"

"I really cannot say whether I did or not: all  
 "that I could collect, there or elsewhere in Kent  
 "where I went, I have thrown together in the form  
 "of this pedigree; and, having so digested it, I have  
 "thrown it off my mind. I can refer to the notes I

“ took at the time ; and if I find anything in them  
“ I shall have great pleasure in stating it.”

The attorney-general then observed, that he had stated all that he conceived to relate to the Harbledown pedigree. He would now request their lordships' attention again to the register of Maidstone.

Mr. Harvey (for the claimant) said that, upon looking into the printed evidence for 1795, he found that the Maidstone register had already been produced, and that the transcript, having been afterwards found, the same had also been produced. He did not therefore see the expediency of producing them again.

But the attorney-general observing, that it appeared to him that the entry of the baptism of Edward and Anne Bridges had been written with fresh ink, and that it seemed to have been an interlineation after the writing of the words “ *fnis istius anni,*” which, as there was sufficient space below, need not to have been so crowded to the last entry, he wished their lordships to re-examine the said entry, and to compare it with the entry in the duplicate; more especially as, in the entry which precedes that in question, the word “ *junior*” occurs, which is “ *senior*” in the duplicate, and which could hardly be considered as a mistake of the copyist.

The reverend James Reeve, minister of Maidstone, then produced the register.

The counsel for the claimant remarked that Mr. Attorney-general seemed to press hard upon the entry above “ *fnis istius anni.*” He should only mention, that the register not being satisfactory, a search had been made in

the office of the consistory court at Canterbury for the duplicate of the register for the year 1603, and that such duplicate had been found and produced in a perfectly clear state. He added, that the mistake might have been easily made in the copying of the register; for there were few original registers. The register of Maidstone, down to 1616, was clearly copied from an old register, as was evident from the hand-writing being everywhere the same.

The attorney-general observed, in reply, that, whether it be a copy or not, there could have been no necessity for such interlineation. The register was again produced and examined by the lords, together with the transcript, which the attorney-general stated was apparently in an older hand than the other papers which accompanied it, although coeval with them in point of date.\*

The Maidstone register was then produced by the attorney-general, for the purpose of showing that a *Mr. James Jackson* was there buried in 1639; and he stated it to be his object to connect this entry with the will which had been produced of Anne Jackson alias Bridges; it being remarkable that this James Jackson's death had happened only a month before the date of Sir John Astley's will, in

\* From the notes of the editor, who was present during this discussion, it appears that "there was some pause here for want of the letter of Knatchbull to Anne Best, which Mr. Attorney was desirous of comparing with the hand-writing of the Maidstone transcript. The letter was missing—Mr. Cowper searched for it, but in vain. Mr. Woodcock, the claimant's solicitor, stated to Mr. Cowper that the black box, in which the letter was found, had been brought away, and that Mr. Harvey had made an index of its contents; but that the letter of Knatchbull was not brought away from the house."

which a legacy of 1000*l.* had been given to Anne, (the niece of his wife dame Katherine,) about whose description the testator did not appear to be very certain.

The reverend James Reeve then read the entry:

Register of burials of the parish of Maidstone.

“ Anno Domini 1639.

“ December 3d Mr. James Jackson.”

The attorney-general then stated his wish to produce the act-book, containing the record of the administration granted of lady Astley's effects, which had not yet been given in evidence.

Mr. Samuel Walton, from the prerogative office, then produced the original act-book of letters of administration for the year 1648-9; and read an entry purporting that a commission had issued on the 18th January 1648-9 to John Bridges, cousin-german of dame Catherine Astley, late of Maidstone, in the county of Kent, deceased, to administer, &c.

The attorney-general then observed that, upon looking over the minutes of the evidence formerly given, there appeared to be a question undecided respecting the admissibility in evidence of a painters' work-book produced by Sir Isaac Heard.

Mr. Erskine, on the part of the claimant, waived the objection to the production of this book; but the attorney-general declined accepting the admission of the counsel, unless sanctioned by the authority of the house.

Sir Isaac Heard was thereupon again examined respecting the official character of the manuscript; but it appearing, from the evidence of the witness, that, although the herald-painters of the period in question had been appointed by,

and acted under the direction of, the officers of arms, there was no proof that the entries in the book under consideration had been made in the exercise of the duties and rules of the office; the earl of Rosslyn expressed his opinion that the book could not be received in evidence.

The attorney-general stated to the house that he believed he had nothing more to offer on the part of the crown; and added, that he could not avoid mentioning his surprise that, after a delay of seven years, this claim should have been again brought forward. He, therefore, presumed that it must be intended to offer some additional evidence in support of it.

Mr. Harvey, on behalf of the claimant, then informed the committee that he should have to call the attention of their lordships to two small points. The first was, that much stress had been laid upon the will of Anne Jackson alias Bridges, in which she gives a legacy to a person by the description of her aunt lady Astley; but, he said, it is by no means clear that the lady Astley there mentioned was the lady Astley, the daughter of Anthony Bridges; and that he should prove, by the records of the Heralds' office, that, at the date of this will, there were several ladies Astley existing, and some in the county of Kent.

The second point, he added, referred to the receipt given by William Best to his brother-in-law Edward Bridges, for money due from his cozen Hamline; and it would be proved from books in the Heralds' office, containing original visitations, and from wills, that there was a connexion between the families of Bridges and Hamline; and such proof would fortify the receipt. One of the sisters of lady Astley

married a Thomas Brayne, and the sister or niece of this Thomas Brayne married a *Hamline*.

Lord Walsingham, chairman of the committee, asked the counsel if they had ready the evidence which they proposed to offer? They answered in the negative; but said it might be soon produced, as it was solely founded upon books in the Heralds' office, and upon wills.

The committee then adjourned the further hearing until the 2nd of June next.

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At the eleventh sitting of the committee, on the 2nd June 1802, Mr. Harvey, of counsel for the claimant, proceeded to show the connexion between the families of Bridges and Hamlyne, in order to support the genuineness of the paper purporting to be a receipt from William Best.

A will was, with this object, produced from the prerogative office, of Thomas Braine, of Littledeane, in the county of Gloucester, Esq., dated 10th April 1604, whereby, after reciting that certain premises and lands in Littledeane had been by Sir William Bridges, Knt., late lord Chandos, and others, together with the testator, leased to one William Braine in trust to the only use of the testator and his assigns, a contingent interest in the said property was vested in Jane *Hamlyne*, the testator's sister, and amongst her children. The will also gave a legacy of 10*l.* and a gosshawk to George Hamlyne, son of the said Jane.

It will be remembered that Thomas Braine, of Gloucestershire, was, by one authority, stated to have intermarried with Elizabeth, a sister of lady Astley.

The authority for this alliance was, as before stated, the copy of an ancient visitation-book for that county, with additions by Augustine Vincent, Windsor herald, in the reign of James the first. This book was now produced by the claimant's counsel.

Mr. Townsend was called to prove the repute and character of the book so offered in evidence, and which is marked "Vincent, No. 115." He stated that it is Vincent's copy of an old visitation of Gloucester, &c., and one of a certain collection of manuscript books which came to the office under the will of Ralph Sheldon, of Beoly, in the year 1684, and a book generally consulted, though not an original.

Upon being asked, whether it had been received, at any time, in evidence in the case of a peer's pedigree? he said that he did not recollect that this particular book had been so received; but that similar books out of the same collection had been received at the bar of the house, and in courts of law at assizes; and he recollects himself attending at Stafford with one of them. Being desired to explain what he meant by "similar books," he replied that Vincent, the collector, an officer of arms, had copied, or caused to be copied, almost, if not entirely, all the preceding heraldic visitations, and added to most of them in his own handwriting, so as to bring the pedigrees therein contained down to his own time. The copies of visitations, in the collection, are from No. 110 to No. 150 inclusive, except one, which was never delivered in: so that, when the witness spoke of "similar books," he meant books of the class between those numbers. They were all *copies*: he did not recollect an *original* visitation amongst them.

The attorney-general stated that he should object to the evidence even if Mr. Vincent's own copy were produced.

In answer to a question from one of their lordships, the witness observed that the old visitations were, in general, very regularly returned into the Heralds' office; and he believed there is a visitation-book extant in the office, of which that now referred to was once a perfect copy; but that the original does not contain the particular entry which immediately applies to the case before the house.\*

Mr. Harvey stated, that the part he wished to read was that which was added by Vincent himself in his own hand.

The evidence was rejected.

(Q. by the attorney-general to Mr. Townsend.)

“ Were you aware of this connexion of the Hamlynes  
“ at any time previous to the production of this will of  
“ Thomas Braine ?”

“ I was aware of it, certainly.”

“ Did you ever communicate that circumstance to  
“ Mr. Egerton Brydges ?”

“ In the month of February 1791, I gave to Mr.  
“ Egerton Brydges a copy of a pedigree of Braine, as  
“ it stands in the book now offered in evidence; and  
“ in that pedigree of Braine, it does appear that Jane  
“ Braine, the daughter of Thomas Braine——”

“ The question is, whether you ever communicated  
“ to Mr. Brydges that there was a connexion with  
“ the family of Bridges ?”

\* Meaning the *addition*, by Vincent, that Anthony Bridges had, besides lady Astley, a daughter Elizabeth, who married Thomas Braine.



“ It does appear in the copy which I gave Mr. Brydges, that a *Jane Braine* was married to a person of the name of *Hamlyne*.”

“ When did you make that communication ?”

“ On the 7th of February 1791.”

Mr. Harvey stated, that he would next produce evidence to show that there were *several* ladies Astley about the period of the will of Anne Jackson alias Bridges.

Edmund Lodge, Esq. Lancaster herald, produced an original visitation of the county of Essex, Anno 1634, marked C. 19.

Read from the same the following extracts :

Alice daughter and co-heir to John Daniell, of Messinge, in com. Essex Ar. 1st. wife.	= Sir Andrew Astley, of Writtel, in com. Essex, Knt., and heir.	= Mary da. to — Keltredge of London, and son the relict of — Drywood, in Essex.
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The witness next produced a book, which he said was a book of funeral certificates in chronological order.

“ Are they originals ?”

“ This identical book is not the original. The originals remain in the college of arms.”

The evidence being objected to, the witness was asked by a lord, by whom were they signed ?

“ I take it that the signatures have been put by the officers who entered them from the originals into this book of record. I had the honour of producing it in the marquess of Winchester’s claim.”

Being asked whether he had compared the entries with the originals, he said he had not ; but would wish Mr. Townsend to state the reputation of these copies to their lordships.

Mr. Townsend was called in, and desired to state the history of the books, of which the one produced formed a part.

He answered, "This is an office record of certain certificates, called *funeral certificates*, because they were taken by the officers of arms at the funerals of persons principally described in them. This is a fair office record."

"Is it the duty and usage of the officers to enter in that record copies of the certificates as they receive them?"

"It is."

(Q. by the attorney-general.) "Do you mean to say that these copies are cotemporary with the returns of the original certificates, and made by the officers on the receipt of them?"

"No, not exactly—but I believe in a very short time afterwards: it sometimes happened that the fees were not paid, and then the record was of course not made.

"I have produced, at the bar of this house, a similar book to this with respect to the nobility: they were kept in a book distinct from those of the gentry; and I recollect attending at your lordships' bar, on a former occasion, with a fair record of a funeral certificate, I think it was of the earl of Clare; but it was upon the claim to the barony of Clinton."

The counsel for the claimant, being asked what they meant to read from the book, informed the committee that

they meant to prove the existence of a Sir Francis Astley, and that he was married to Anne Samwayes.

Read from the same the following extract :

“ The right worshipful Sir Francis Asteley, Knt.,  
 “ died the 28th November 1635. He married Anne,  
 “ daughter and co-heir of Barnard Samwayes, of Tiller,  
 “ in the county of Dorset, esq.”

The witness next produced a book, which he said was the original visitation of Norfolk in the year 1664.

Read from the same the following extracts :

“ Sir Edward Astley, of Melton=Elizabeth da. of Jacob Ld. Astley,  
 Constable, Knt. | baron of Reading.

Sir Jacob Astley, of Melton=Blanch da. of Sr. Philip Wood-  
 Constable, Knt., and Bart., now house of Kimberley, in Norfolk,  
 High Sheriff, 1664. Bart.”

The witness next produced a book, which he said was entitled “ The Black Book,” and contained pedigrees of the nobility ; and added that he believed it had been a century in use in the compilation of peers’ pedigrees.

But it appearing that the book offered in evidence had not the signature of any officer of arms authenticating it, and that it was not even known by whom it had been compiled ; that no instance could be adduced in which it had been admitted in evidence, although Mr. Townsend, upon being referred to, believed that it had been so admitted ; yet, that it is not a book of high reputation in the office, or to be resorted to for information in the first instance : the committee rejected the evidence.

Mr. Lodge was then asked, by the counsel for the claimant, whether, on his examination of the various records

deposited in the Heralds' office, he had found any one instance of a person described by an *alias*, as a combination of a married with an unmarried name; or of an *alias* introduced where a woman had been married to two husbands—and whether he had found it to be usual, or had found, in the course of his search, even a single instance of a person, in the execution of any deed or instrument of any kind, describing herself by her maiden name, and combining it with her married name by an *alias*?”

To which the witness replied, that he had made the most extensive search he could on that question for instances of that sort; that he had discovered a multitude of instances of families bearing two surnames connected by an *alias*; that he had frequently been able to trace the origin of that name by an *alias*, so as to make three or four classes, he thought, of those several methods; but that “*he never did, nor had been able to find an instance of a woman connecting her maiden name with her married name.*”

Upon his cross-examination, Mr. Lodge was asked, whether he had made search in any books of administrations? He said, no; and that his search had been confined to his own office. He had found occasionally other instances elsewhere.

“Does your office contain a collection of wills?”

“Certainly not.”

“Then your search has not been where you would find a variety of wills?”

“Not particularly. I made some search in the prerogative office, but by no means extending to a general search.”

Then Mr. Townsend was again called in, and the book of administrations from the prerogative office being shown to him, he was asked :

“ Did you open this book by chance at this place ?”

“ Yes.”

“ Read that entry.”

“ Magdalene *Andrews alias Yates* [in the margin]

“ 21<sup>o</sup> die Joel Andrews marito Magdalene *Andrews*

“ *alias Yates* nuper de Clune in Comitatu Oxon

“ def. &c.”

“ Can you find an instance of a woman, who is a widow, putting her maiden name *last* ?”

“ I have no doubt I can find instances of the kind.”

“ Can you find an instance of a woman married, and being a widow, and signing any instrument, who has combined her original maiden name with the name of her late husband ?”

“ I have no doubt that I should find more than fifty instances in this book before me, where a female taking out letters of administration to some persons of her own kindred, and being a widow, describes herself by both names ; I mean the name of her late husband and the name of her father combined by an *alias*.”

“ The question is not as to letters of administration ; but if you know any instance of a woman making a will in her own right as a widow, and describing herself there by adopting her original maiden name, and combining it with her married name by an *alias* ?”

“ I do not *recollect* any such circumstance.”

Mr. Harvey next informed the house that he had now Mr. Vincent's original copy of the Gloucestershire visitation ready to produce ; but he was informed by the house that it could not be received in evidence.

The committee was then adjourned.

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At the twelfth hearing, on the 16th June 1802, Mr. Robert Lemon, from the record office in the Tower, was desired to inspect the entry of a baptism in the parish register of Harbletown, in the year 1606, which had appeared partly in an obliterated state ; but he could only make out the name *Edward*.

He thereupon applied a liquid, used for the restoration of decayed writing, after having assured the committee that it would do no injury to the parchment ; and retired saying, that the liquid would take effect in about ten minutes.

Then Mr. Attorney-general, with reference to the evidence, given on 17th February 1791, viz : that "in searching the Maidstone register, to see if there was any person of the name of Bridges mentioned in the register previous to the entry of the burial of Robert in 1636, he (the witness then examined) found an entry of Alexander Brydges christened 17th January 1543 ; and that he could, with certainty, say that was the only person of the name of Brydges mentioned in the said register previous to the year 1636"—now read from the same register the following entries :

“ 1603

“ Marriages.

“ May. The 30th day were married, &c.

“ The same day were married *William Brydges* to  
“ *Thomasin Michell.*”

“ 1608

“ Marriages.

“ May. The 30 days were married *Henric Brydge* and  
“ *Alice Hearneden.*”

Mr. Townsend was then examined by one of their lordships as to the period at which he had been first employed by the claimant as his “legal confidential agent?” The witness objected to the description; but stated that he had been first consulted by Mr. Egerton Brydges upon researches relative to his family pedigree in the year 1784. He was proceeding to mention the contents of a paper which Mr. Brydges had given to him—when, the evidence being objected to, he was directed to withdraw.

Mr. Townsend was again called in, and asked, how he understood the *alias* in *Jackson alias Bridges*; and which he supposed to have been her *married*, and which her *maiden* name? To which he answered—“I take the name  
“ of *Bridges* to be her maiden name and that of *Jackson*  
“ to be her married name, if she was married.”

“ When you seem to trace this same person to her  
“ burial at St. Bride’s,\* do you suppose her to be the  
“ same person who is described as *Anne Jackson alias*  
“ *Bridges*?”

\* She died in that parish, but was buried at St. Faith’s under St. Paul’s.

“ Yes, I do.”

“ Then you suppose this widow was buried under her maiden name ?”

“ I have nothing to guide my judgment except the will, the entry in the register, and a piece of information which was certainly strong on my mind, though I believe your lordships did reject it as evidence.\* But it is impossible for me to dismiss from my mind the impression which that made on it; for I am so much in the habit of consulting books of the description then offered, and have found so much real information from them, that, as a herald, I had not the least doubt that the entry in that book referred to the very person whose will is now alluded to. From these three pieces of evidence, to me at least, I formed my conclusion.”

“ The evidence was objected to.”†

“ Then, observing her to be buried under the name of *Anne Bridges* only, you still suppose that was her maiden name ?”

“ I really feel great difficulty in answering that question. I can only offer my opinion; and, if I am not at all allowed to state the grounds on which that opinion was formed, it will be, of course, very difficult for your lordships to go with me in opinion. Certainly, if I saw nothing but the entry in the register of *Anne Bridges*—”

\* The entry in the painters' work-book, see Appendix, No. X.

† It, nevertheless, forms part of the printed minutes of evidence, p. 134.



The evidence was objected to.

. The witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. Lemon was again called in, and having, with his glass, inspected the entry in the Harbledown register after the effect of the application of his liquid, said that he thought he could see the word *Edward* and part of *Bridges*, and, plain enough, *John*; but that was all he could discover.

Then Mr. Townsend was asked when he compiled the Harbledown pedigree, and answered that he had collected the materials for forming it in April, May and July 1794; and that he had communicated it to the law-officers of the crown.

## SECTION V.

RECAPITULATION OF THE EVIDENCE BY THE COUNSEL FOR  
THE CLAIM.

ON the 1st December 1802, the lords, upon the claimant's petition, setting forth that his majesty's attorney-general had gone through his case on the part of the crown in the last session of parliament, and praying that the petitioner's counsel might state his case and the evidence produced in support thereof at their lordships' bar, appointed the first hearing of the claim to take place on the first Thursday after the recess; which, however, was postponed, at several times, until the 29th March following, when Mr. Harvey, for the claimant, proceeded to sum up the evidence.

*Substance of Mr. Harvey's address to the Committee on the  
29th and 31st March 1803.*

The counsel stated, " that the attorney-general,  
" who recommended to his majesty to refer the claim  
" to the consideration of the house, had reported in its  
" favour; but that, as the learned person who at  
" present filled that office, could not, upon his acces-  
" sion to it, be supposed to be fully acquainted with  
" the case, he should recapitulate the pieces of evi-  
" dence which had been, from time to time, submitted,  
" and comment severally upon their merits.

“ For the existence of the honour now claimed,  
 “ letters patent of creation by queen Mary, in 1554,  
 “ to Sir John Bridges, Knt., and the heirs male of his  
 “ body, had been produced : the first lord, who died  
 “ in 1557, had five sons—the first, Edmund, suc-  
 “ ceeded, and died in 1573; Giles, the third lord,  
 “ died in 1594, &c. : that, upon the death of William,  
 “ the seventh lord, the issue male from the first lord,  
 “ by his eldest son, ceased ; and the honour devolved  
 “ to Sir James, who was descended from the second  
 “ son of the grantee.

“ That, in the original pedigree, produced from the  
 “ Heralds’ office, the name of Bridges had been vari-  
 “ ously spelt ; and he mentioned this fact in order to  
 “ meet such objections as may hereafter be made  
 “ arising from the different spellings of the surname :  
 “ that in the pedigree, so produced, it was stated that  
 “ Edmund was the first, Charles the second, and  
 “ Anthony Brugge the third son ; from which latter  
 “ the claimant derives his title : that the sitting of  
 “ James, in 1676, had been proved by the journals of  
 “ the house ; and that such circumstance inferred the  
 “ extinction of the males in the first line : that, from  
 “ James, the honour descended regularly down to the  
 “ late duke of Chandos, upon whose death all the  
 “ issue male from the second son became extinct.”

The attorney-general here interrupted Mr. Harvey to  
 observe that he admits the failure of the first line ; but, if  
 there be any defect in the evidence, it is in respect to  
 Tristram and Thomas, the two younger sons of Charles,

the second son of the first lord. He submitted to the house how far the absence of all affirmative evidence concerning their issue would be sufficient for the claimant's case: that, as to Tristram, there is no evidence of him beyond that of his having survived his brother Sir Giles: there is no evidence of Thomas having died without issue male: he married and left two daughters; but there is no evidence to show that he had not also a son. Mr. Attorney-general said he merely threw out these observations for the consideration of the house.

Mr. Harvey observed, in reply, that the evidence laid before their lordships on this point, rested pretty much upon the will of Sir Giles Bridges (elder brother of Tristram and Thomas), dated 4th April 1634, bequeathing legacies to the two daughters of Thomas, and giving annuities, or saying that he had granted annuities, to both brothers. He therefore submitted to the house that it is extremely probable that Sir Giles would have named any son of his brother, if such had existed; and he observed, that nearly two centuries had elapsed, and no person answering such description had appeared; that, if there had been any male issue, such issue would certainly have had a priority of claim; but that, upon strict search made by a person of great skill in similar investigations, no such issue had ever been discovered.\*

The learned counsel then proceeded.

“ That, by the heralds' pedigree so produced, it appeared that Anthony, the third son of the first lord, had a son, Robartt Bruggs, whom it would be material to notice, as, from him, claimant derives :

\* See Appendix, n. III.

“ that Anthony had also a daughter Catherine, mar-  
“ ried to Sir John Astley, of Maidstone, also a very  
“ material point for the case: that, in the parish  
“ register of Maidstone, there is an entry of the bap-  
“ tism of Edward and Anne, son and daughter of  
“ Robert Bridges, esq.: that, upon the production of  
“ this piece of evidence, there had arisen a twofold  
“ objection on the part of the crown:—First, the  
“ validity of the entry had been impeached, and,  
“ secondly, the identity of Robert had been doubted:  
“ That, upon looking into the original register, there  
“ certainly was the appearance of interlineation; and,  
“ in consequence of that, the claimant had thought it  
“ necessary to procure other evidence to satisfy the  
“ house, though the interlineated entry must be as-  
“ cribed to time, chance, or some other circumstance,  
“ as nothing had been done by them to the register.  
“ That it would be proper here to observe that, by the  
“ seventieth canon, in 1598, upon the subject of paro-  
“ chial registers, it had been directed that a parch-  
“ ment book should be provided in every parish, in  
“ which the baptisms, marriages, and burials should  
“ be entered; but that the churchwardens of every  
“ parish were to transmit, every year within one  
“ month after the 25th of March, a transcript of the  
“ entries of the preceding year, to be preserved in the  
“ bishop’s office: his client had therefore directed his  
“ attention to the office at Canterbury, in search of  
“ the transcript in which the baptism in question  
“ should appear, that he found much difficulty in

“ this search ; because, previously to the restoration,  
“ the papers there were in a very irregular state :  
“ however, the very paper, perfectly fair, when the  
“ remoteness of the period at which it was written  
“ is considered, had been fortunately found ; and it  
“ contained the very words, as far as regarded the  
“ entry in question, which stood in the register. With  
“ respect to the Maidstone register, he should observe  
“ that the letters of several other entries had been  
“ marked over with ink ; and Mr. Attorney-general  
“ having entertained some doubt on the entry in  
“ question, the original book had been again produced,  
“ and he (Mr. Harvey) on looking again at the  
“ entry, could not but declare that he thought it an  
“ interlineation ; but that that could not prejudice  
“ the case of his client. The canon directs that the  
“ entries of each antecedent year should be trans-  
“ cribed—now he never saw a parish register, of a  
“ date anterior to 1697, which was not a copy—the  
“ minister and churchwardens, in all probability, got  
“ together the scraps of papers preserved of the paro-  
“ chial transactions, and the entries were thereupon  
“ made in the register according to the canon—  
“ otherwise, how could the circumstance be accounted  
“ for, that this register is, for a series of years, in the  
“ same handwriting. That the entry in question had,  
“ in the first instances, doubtless been omitted by the  
“ transcriber, and afterwards interlined where it now  
“ stands : that it could not have been interlined at  
“ any more recent period, as the transcript must have

“ been carried into the archbishop’s court in 1604 :  
 “ that, in this case, however, the entry was at  
 “ variance with the canon ; the man who made the  
 “ entry, mistaking the computation of the year, inter-  
 “ lined this baptism at the wrong place. It had been  
 “ objected that, in the transcript, the entry preced-  
 “ ing this baptism, was ‘ *Mercy Thomas daughter of*  
 “ *William Thomas sen<sup>r</sup>,*’ whereas, in the register, it  
 “ stood ‘ *jun<sup>r</sup>.*’ Supposing this were the case (which  
 “ he, Mr. Harvey, did not admit, as he had not  
 “ attentively inspected it), it only argued the inaccu-  
 “ racy of the copyist, but did not impeach the genuine-  
 “ ness of the duplicate, which he trusted was fully  
 “ established. The next consideration was, whether,  
 “ taking the baptism to be a genuine entry, the  
 “ Robert therein mentioned was actually *the* Robartt  
 “ Bruggs, entered in the heralds’ pedigree as the son  
 “ of Anthony ? The learned counsel said he should not  
 “ contend from the entry itself that the identity was  
 “ proved ;—supposing the entry had been in these  
 “ words, ‘ Edward and Ann son and daughter of  
 “ Robert Bridges, esq., *brother of lady Astley,*’ he  
 “ should have found such entry so extraordinary that  
 “ he should not have insisted on its authenticity ; for  
 “ the canon required no statement of the consanguinity  
 “ of the person baptized, save of the parent. The  
 “ presumption is in this case *irresistible* in favour of  
 “ the claimant’s case : he, however, thought it neces-  
 “ sary to state, that the first lord Chandos had only  
 “ given to Anthony an annuity of 20*l.*—this ascer-

" tains that Anthony had no landed property—he had  
 " therefore, no inducement to fix his residence in any  
 " particular spot—it is possible, that he might have  
 " removed to Maidstone—it is very probable that his  
 " son Robert removed thither, to the protection of his  
 " sister, who had married a man of such importance as  
 " Sir John Astley : in the counties of Gloucester and  
 " Hereford, the native counties of the family, no trace  
 " had been discovered either of Anthony or Robert,  
 " though the most effectual search had been made by  
 " a herald who, in addition to his acknowledged skill  
 " in his profession, had, upon this occasion, all the  
 " knowledge arising from the confidential communi-  
 " cations of the claimant—that gentleman had said in  
 " evidence at this bar, that he was never the *confiden-*  
 " *tial agent* of his client, and yet, in the same breath,  
 " he had asserted that the claimant's brother had  
 " come to him, searched with him, and compared  
 " notes from time to time."

[Lord Ellenborough here asked if any period for the  
 marriage of lady Astley had been discovered? Mr.  
 Harvey answered " *no precise period,*" but, upon Mr.  
 Egerton Brydges's suggestion, he added, " the children are  
 entered in the visitation of 1619." ]

Mr. Haryey proceeded.—" In the parish register of  
 " Maidstone, there is the burial of a Robert Bridges,  
 " *esquire*; this entry had not been, nor could be  
 " questioned—who then can this Robert have been?  
 " There is no trace of his settlement in any other part  
 " of England, and it is highly probable he went to



“ Maidstone. That Edward and Ann were brother  
 “ and sister is ascertained by the entry before-men-  
 “ tioned—whether they were twins is not material  
 “ —but any evidence that may show that Ann was  
 “ niece to lady Astley, must also prove that Edward  
 “ was the nephew—and a great deal depends upon  
 “ the evidence the claimant has produced to establish  
 “ this fact. It is perfectly clear that claimant is de-  
 “ scended from an ancestor named *Edward*—nay, it is  
 “ admitted in a pedigree produced on the part of the  
 “ crown, that the descent is from an Edward Bridges,  
 “ who married Catherine Sharpe—the objection is to  
 “ the *identity* of this *Edward*. Now, the evidence in  
 “ favour of this identity is as follows:—The will of  
 “ Sir John Astley gives to ‘Ann alias Agnes Bridges,  
 “ &c.,’ and it further ascertains that she had been  
 “ resident in *the Palace*. Now the arms used by the  
 “ family of the claimant had always had the *mullet*  
 “ for difference, being the distinction of the third son,  
 “ and this corroborated by the testimony of lady Caro-  
 “ line Leigh, and lady Catherine Stanhope, who had  
 “ affirmed that the family of the duke of Chandos  
 “ *always* considered Mr. Brydges of Kent *to be de-*  
 “ *scended from the third son of the first lord, and*  
 “ *therefore heir to the barony*. It had been shown  
 “ that Anthony and Robert had no landed property—  
 “ the settlement in Kent was therefore probable—  
 “ there was no other son than Robert—and Ann  
 “ must therefore have been daughter to this Robert, if  
 “ she was, as styled by Sir John, *niece to his wife*

“ *dame Catherine*. - On the 15th April 1794, the  
 “ brother of the claimant discovered a receipt, dated  
 “ 3rd April 1648, purporting to be the receipt, of  
 “ *William Best*, from his brother *Edward Bridges*—  
 “ searches were made relative to *Best*, and the  
 “ registers in the vicinity of Faversham and Maid-  
 “ stone were examined—that of Owre, near Faver-  
 “ sham, had been lost, but in the transcript discovered  
 “ at Canterbury, the entries of the marriage of Anne  
 “ Bridges, of Maidstone, with a *William Best*, and of  
 “ the baptism of their child, *Astley Best*, had been  
 “ found and produced in evidence. Thus circumstanced  
 “ was the case, when a box containing old papers was  
 “ found and brought into this house—‘ your lordships  
 “ inspected it, and found the letter.’

Mr. Harvey here stated the pains taken by him and Mr. Abbott in deciphering it, and begged to read it to their lordships, and comment upon it. Mr. Harvey then combined all the circumstances for the identity of *Edward*, derived from this letter—

“ It speaks of *the Palace*—then of *my lady*—then  
 “ it establishes that Ann had a *brother*—and an *only*  
 “ brother, for he would otherwise have been specifi-  
 “ cally named — it confirms the *poverty* of the *father*  
 “ —and it shows the baptism of Ann’s son by *the*  
 “ name of Sir John Astley, and so corroborates the  
 “ entry at *Owre*.”

Mr. Harvey then made observations on the evidence produced on the part of the crown.

“ It consisted, principally, of two pieces:—First, the

“ administration of lady Astley granted to John  
 “ Bridges; Secondly, the will of Ann Jackson alias  
 “ Bridges: this John, if he were now alive, or any  
 “ of his descendants, they would not stand in the way  
 “ of the present claim. John was of the youngest  
 “ branch—he was first cousin to lady Astley—the  
 “ dispute was between him and Frances countess  
 “ of Exeter, also first cousin to the intestate—they  
 “ appear to have been extremely ignorant of the pedi-  
 “ gree, for she puts John to proof, when he had  
 “ proved.” Mr. Harvey said, “ *It will not be to be*  
 “ *wondered at, that administration was granted to*  
 “ *John. Edward was certainly nearer of kin—the*  
 “ *period (1648) was extremely confused, and the pro-*  
 “ *ceedings of the ecclesiastical courts were extremely*  
 “ *irregular—Edward had not any notice, and he*  
 “ *ought not to be considered as bound to attend when*  
 “ *he had not been summoned. To show how in-*  
 “ *correct they were then in point of description,*”  
 (Mr. Harvey said,) “ John Bridges obtained admin-  
 “ istration and stated himself to be *sole* next of kin,  
 “ whereas he had a sister Frances, who was the wife  
 “ of Richard Moore, then living; therefore he was  
 “ incorrect in his statement, and the heralds’ pedigrees  
 “ were equally incorrect in stating this Frances to  
 “ be the *daughter and heir.*”

Mr. Harvey then proposed to account for the different dates of the death of *Edward*, as given into the house.

“ Edward Bridges had been tenant for life of an  
 “ estate; in 1659 his son suffered a recovery; and the

“ father, if living, ought to have been a party;—he was  
 “ not mentioned; the inference therefore was, that he  
 “ was then dead—it was proved, however, that he was  
 “ alive at that period. As to the will of Ann Jack-  
 “ son alias Bridges, he admitted the authenticity of the  
 “ will and of the copy; but considered the identity  
 “ as by no means proved: that it was not usual to  
 “ describe the maiden name in this way, whatever  
 “ may have been asserted by Mr. Townsend to the  
 “ contrary; and, unless her maiden name was  
 “ *Bridges*, it was immaterial who she was. He then  
 “ said there were many ladies Astley at that period;  
 “ and to show the confusion of names, read the monu-  
 “ mental inscription at Leeds for lady Anne Bridges,  
 “ wife of George Jackson, Esq.\* They had not been  
 “ able to make out who Ann Jackson alias Bridges  
 “ was: Mr. Harvey said that the attorney-general  
 “ had produced an entry of the burial of James  
 “ Jackson in the Maidstone register, and said it  
 “ would be well for their purpose to admit that this  
 “ Jackson was husband to the testatrix; for, if it  
 “ were admitted, she could not in point of date be the  
 “ same Anne who is called by Sir John Astley niece

\* The allusion here is to an inscription, in the parish church of Leeds, in Yorkshire, in memory of a dame Ann Bridges, who had married to her second husband Mr. George Jackson, of Leeds, merchant, and died 3rd June 1657. (Thoresby's Leeds, by Whitaker, vol. II. p. 50.) Her former husband had been a William Bridges, “serjeant-major in Sir Richard Page's regiment,” who was knighted in June 1645, and died abroad before the 16th August 1651, when administration was granted to dame Ann his relict. George Jackson, her second husband, died at Leeds in 1676.

“ to his wife dame Katherine. The learned counsel  
“ then adverted to the circumstance that two other  
“ entries in the Maidstone register, of the name of  
“ Bridges, had been produced, in order to invalidate  
“ the testimony given for the claimant, that only one  
“ entry of the name appeared in that register prior to  
“ 1636: that the witness must have meant 1603,  
“ and not 1636. That the crown had produced another  
“ distinct head of evidence by which they have taken  
“ upon them to show that Edward was of a family  
“ of Bridges settled at Harbledown — that one John  
“ Bridges of that place had, among other sons, one  
“ named *Edward* — that one John Bridges, of this  
“ family, was a grocer at Canterbury, in the parish of  
“ St. Andrew; and did in his will call himself John  
“ ‘the younger,’ and, contrasting with the description  
“ of the claimant’s ancestor, John ‘the elder,’ also a  
“ grocer in the same parish, it was inferred that they  
“ were of the same family. Further, that John, the  
“ claimant’s ancestor, had become surety for one of  
“ the Harbledown family, upon the latter taking out  
“ letters of administration upon the death of a near  
“ relation: that the attorney-general had produced  
“ the register of Harbledown, which appears to be  
“ certainly not in the same state in which it had  
“ been at some period or other: entries in the year  
“ 1606 had been obliterated, but it would be unfor-  
“ tunate for his client if he were chargeable therewith,  
“ and no impeachment could rest on him or his  
“ agents: it did not appear that they had ever seen

“ the Harbledown register—it had been examined at  
 “ the instance of Mr. Bridges, of St. Nicholas at  
 “ Wade, and it had been in the hands of Mr. Towns-  
 “ end—he did not feel that it could affect their case  
 “ —he does not dispute the obliterated entry—be-  
 “ lieves it was of the baptism of an *Edward*—but  
 “ the mere entry is no proof of the identity of Ed-  
 “ ward; for why should any more credit be given to  
 “ the Harbledown than to the Maidstone register?  
 “ The will of John Bridges, of Harbledown, proved ac-  
 “ cording to the act-book in 1646—the name of *Ed-*  
 “ *ward* not mentioned in the probate, which had been  
 “ granted to John and Thomas, two other sons of the  
 “ testator—it is probable that this Edward, the son  
 “ of John, of Harbledown, was *the* Edward buried at  
 “ St. George’s, Canterbury, in 1646: that no reputa-  
 “ tion had been offered in favour of the Harbledown  
 “ pedigree, and it was not to be relied on as against  
 “ the claimant’s case.”

Mr. Harvey, after recapitulating the evidence produced  
 to identify Edward, and prove him to be the son of Robert  
 the son of Anthony, observed, in conclusion,

“ That this was not a case contested between two  
 “ persons — if Mr. Brydges be not entitled, the dig-  
 “ nity is extinct—their lordships therefore had not  
 “ to fear the doing injury to any person whatever by  
 “ deciding in his favour.”

## SECTION VI.

## SUMMING UP OF THE EVIDENCE BY MR. ATTORNEY-GENERAL PERCEVAL ON BEHALF OF THE CROWN.

MR. ATTORNEY-GENERAL began by observing, “ that  
 “ he stood there to supply the place of any other per-  
 “ son who might be entitled to the honour of Chan-  
 “ dos : that this was one of the most important  
 “ questions of the kind ever agitated : that there are  
 “ circumstances attending the proofs of this case of  
 “ so suspicious a nature, that it was not for him to  
 “ state what ought to be their lordships’ conclusion  
 “ thereon ; but it was for him, in the discharge of his  
 “ duty, to lay those suspicious circumstances before  
 “ their lordships. Admits the extinction of the first  
 “ line ; the second, not quite so satisfactory in regard  
 “ to *Tristram* and *Thomas*, of whose death without  
 “ issue male there appeared no positive proof, and it  
 “ would be for their lordships to determine how far  
 “ the absence of any affirmative evidence, bringing  
 “ into existence any male issue from them, should be  
 “ deemed conclusive : that the long lapse of time was  
 “ no argument for, but made rather against the claim-  
 “ ant : that the only evidence adduced had been the  
 “ will of Sir Giles, in 1684, in which it was stated  
 “ that Thomas had two daughters— this would go to

“ prove that he was married : in the claimant’s pedigree, Thomas is stated to have been buried in 1646, whether, between 1634 and 1646, there was not time for the birth of a son or sons, remained for their lordships’ consideration.\*

“ But the material point is the proof of the claimant’s own descent from Anthony, third son of the first lord. The inquiry is narrowed to *two* descents only, for there is no ground to hesitate in admitting the claimant to be heir male of the body of Edward Bridges, who married Katherine Sharpe ; but that *that* Edward was the son of Robert the son of Anthony, is what the attorney-general said he denied : of that fact there is no distinct, no positive proof, but strong grounds in evidence from which *the contrary* may be inferred. Claimant has attempted to make out that Robert, the son of Anthony, had two children, Edward and Anne, baptized at Maidstone in 1603, and that this Edward, so by him endeavoured to be shown to be the son of Robert, was the *same Edward* from whom he claims : he has indeed proved that Anthony had a son Robert, and a daughter lady Astley ; but that *that son Robert had any son at all*, or that *any Edward* was baptized at Maidstone, must remain a strong doubt. But supposing even (what he could not suppose) that an Edward was born at Maidstone, and that he was the son of Robert, it still remains for the claimant to prove (what he has not

\* See Appendix n. III.



“ proved) that he is a descendant from such Edward  
 “ —and if he fail in any one point of proof, he fails  
 “ in the whole—it is a breach in the chain which ab-  
 “ solutely destroys the continuity of it. On referring  
 “ to the statement in the original petition, he finds it  
 “ there alleged that Robert Bridges, found at Maid-  
 “ stone, had Edward and Anne, twins, baptized there  
 “ in 1603; but it is important, that in the original  
 “ petition no circumstance is stated from which it is  
 “ to be collected that such entry existed in the Maid-  
 “ stone register. In that petition, Edward was repre-  
 “ sented to have died in 1665. When the case was  
 “ here stated, the date of Edward’s death was wholly  
 “ omitted—the name of that individual was intro-  
 “ duced into the case and appendix without any  
 “ date assigned of his death—in the course of the  
 “ prosecution of the claim, a document was produced  
 “ stating that this Edward had died in 1646: this  
 “ correction was introduced for *some* purpose, but it  
 “ was afterwards abandoned, and it was proved that  
 “ he was living in 1662: in these essential particulars  
 “ it seemed important to remark, that there had been  
 “ by no means a consistent story.

“ To prove the identity of *Edward*, the baptism of  
 “ Edward and Anne has been produced from the  
 “ Maidstone register; and it is collected from Sir  
 “ John Astley’s will, that Anne had formed part of  
 “ his family.

“ The Maidstone register. This evidence is very  
 “ suspicious—it shows an entry in 1603, at the end of

“ the year, of the baptism of Edward and Anne, son  
 “ and daughter of Robert Bridges, esq.—the entry  
 “ being evidently an interlineation subsequent to the  
 “ conclusion of the registrations for that year—it  
 “ trenches unnecessarily close upon the words ‘*finis*  
 “ *istius anni*’—the entry is in fresher ink, &c.\*  
 “ To uphold this evidence, the attorney-general ob-  
 “ served, they produced the duplicate of the Maidstone  
 “ register for 1603—when this document was re-in-  
 “ spected, the copy was found to be pretty nearly  
 “ accurate—the surname always follows the baptismal  
 “ name, except in the instance in question: their  
 “ lordships would attend to the paper of this docu-  
 “ ment, and he would ask them if this paper has not  
 “ the appearance of an artificial antiquity acquired by  
 “ dampness, which the other duplicates of registers  
 “ from the same place, that accompany it, do not  
 “ possess?

“ The receipt of 1643 is of a most mysterious  
 “ character, and the letter ‘to cozen Best’ equally  
 “ extraordinary; both exhibiting an appearance of  
 “ antiquity from dampness, and softening and rotting  
 “ the paper, producing the same appearance as the  
 “ duplicate.

“ That it was impossible to believe that the claimant  
 “ was not acquainted with the fact of the Maidstone  
 “ entry; how happened it that he did not, in his  
 “ original petition, state the fact and the date of the  
 “ baptism? It is to be inferred, from that omission,

\* See Appendix, n. VIII.

“ either that no such entry then existed, or that the  
 “ register had not been searched. If their lordships  
 “ would not go so far as to believe that the entry had  
 “ not existed, then they must adopt the other alter-  
 “ native, that the register had not been searched by  
 “ the claimant or his agents: could their lordships  
 “ believe it? But the register had been searched;  
 “ and the burial of Robert extracted: these circum-  
 “ stances justify suspicion.”

The attorney-general here commented on the evidence of  
 Mr. Egerton Brydges.

“ If the claimant have no son, Mr. Egerton Brydges  
 “ will succeed: he is, according to law, a competent  
 “ witness; but, in point of fact, he must be considered  
 “ as incompetent; his testimony must be affected by  
 “ the interest which he has in the issue of the claim:  
 “ his evidence is very extraordinary and contradictory.  
 “ It may be true, but it is very suspicious: though  
 “ the claimant had employed a number of agents, he  
 “ never suffered *him* to go into the book-room! He  
 “ luckily, however, got admittance at last, and the box  
 “ was found, and the receipt was found, which dis-  
 “ covered a most material fact, that William Best  
 “ married Anne the sister of Edward Bridges. Could  
 “ there have been a greater trap laid for the just and  
 “ judicial curiosity of their lordships than the produc-  
 “ tion of this box? With regard to the letter of John  
 “ Knatchbull, is it possible that Mr. Egerton Brydges,  
 “ who had told the committee that the box had been  
 “ minutely inspected for documents, could in such

“ inspection have overlooked a letter directed to Anne  
“ Best? The paper also of the letter is in the same  
“ artificial state as the duplicate already commented  
“ on. It is extremely easy to fabricate such papers  
“ so as to impose often on acute antiquaries. To give  
“ credit to these papers under such circumstances  
“ would be perfectly unsafe in the administration of  
“ justice: the manner in which the receipt and the  
“ letter were found, and the circumstances which had  
“ led to their discovery, were inconsistent with the  
“ care and anxiety exhibited by the same parties in  
“ other transactions. It is only through these papers,  
“ it must be remembered, that the claimant could  
“ expect their lordships to believe that he is at all  
“ connected with the Chandos family; for, if Robert  
“ was not *the* Robert; if Anne was not *the* Anne  
“ who were visitors or inhabitants of *the Palace*, he  
“ had made out nothing for his case: the only ground  
“ for the former of these two positions was the cir-  
“ cumstance that a Robert was found buried in the  
“ same town in which lady Astley resided. Mr.  
“ Coulthurst had stated that he had only found be-  
“ sides that of Robert Bridges, an entry of Alexander  
“ Bridges in 1543; yet, when the register was re-  
“ produced, two other entries of the name, the one in  
“ 1603, the other in 1608, had appeared: the pedi-  
“ gree, stated by Sir Giles Bridges in 1634, has no  
“ mention of Edward; yet if such a person had ex-  
“ isted he would have been thirty years of age, and  
“ therefore not likely to have been omitted.

“ What evidence is there to support the position  
“ that the Edward from whom the claimant derives,  
“ was the nephew of lady Astley, if we set aside the  
“ receipt and the letter ?

“ The hatchments had been produced, having thereon  
“ the Bridges’ arms with the *mullet* for difference, in  
“ order to prove the descent—but it was no proof ;  
“ for, if there be any reason to presume that the  
“ papers, already observed upon, had been fabricated,  
“ it was as easy to suppose that the *mullet* may have  
“ been introduced into the arms on the hatchments.

“ As to Edward Bridges, there is affirmative evi-  
“ dence that he could not have been the descendant  
“ of lord Chandos: family instruments had been pro-  
“ duced by the claimant ; one dated 20th December  
“ 1635, in which Edward Bridges, the claimant’s  
“ ancestor, is described as a *yeoman*, and there is no  
“ instance of his being described by a higher denomi-  
“ nation: it is not to be credited that a man, de-  
“ scended from this noble family, would have so  
“ described himself, whatever might have been his  
“ circumstances in life ; but it is proved that his cir-  
“ cumstances were not so reduced ; he had married  
“ Katherine Sharpe, a person with a fortune ; and it  
“ is most likely that, if ever he had manifested an  
“ inclination to recover the lost consequence of his  
“ branch, it would have been about that period.

“ On referring to the letters of administration of the  
“ effects of lady Astley, granted to John Bridges, the  
“ question is naturally suggested, how happened it

“ that there was no interference on the part of Ed-  
 “ ward: no circumstance could have been more for-  
 “ tunate than the death of his aunt intestate; he was  
 “ then (in 1648) alive, and continued to live until  
 “ 1665; if there had been any impediment to his  
 “ appearance on account of the troublesome times, as  
 “ it had been represented, he might have procured  
 “ afterwards a reversal of an unjust decision; this  
 “ must be fatal to the claim, and more especially  
 “ when it is considered that these letters of adminis-  
 “ tration were not produced by the claimant, but on  
 “ the part of the crown.

Mr. Attorney-general then adverted again to the  
 variation in the alleged times of death of Edward.  
 “ What reason, he would ask, had the claimant to  
 “ suppose that Edward, the alleged son of Robert,  
 “ was not living in 1648? After the discovery of  
 “ the letters of administration, the entry of the burial  
 “ of an Edward Bridges, in 1646, at St. George’s  
 “ Canterbury, was produced, and produced by the  
 “ man upon whose integrity so material a portion of  
 “ the evidence in favour of the claim depends. In  
 “ 1791, he found the administration of lady Astley;  
 “ in 1794, he denied all knowledge of it at their  
 “ lordships’ bar! Is this evidence upon which their  
 “ lordships could bring into that noble and honourable  
 “ house a person of this description?

He then asked—“ Was there no settlement on the  
 “ marriage of Catherine Sharpe with the claimant’s  
 “ ancestor? Was there no will of Edward Bridges?

“ Is it not very strange that such material papers  
“ should never have been discovered among the papers  
“ of the claimant’s family, where the receipt of Wil-  
“ liam Best had been so carefully preserved ?

“ In the further case, subsequently to the discovery  
“ of the letters of administration, it appeared that the  
“ claimant had found out that Edward was living in  
“ 1662, from the book of licences, in which the marri-  
“ age licence for Edward’s daughter was entered.

“ On Mr. Abbott’s evidence respecting the search  
“ at Wootton, he should remark, that he had a high  
“ opinion of that gentleman, and that it was an easy  
“ matter to remove out of his way any marriage set-  
“ tlement on Katherine Sharpe, or any other material  
“ paper.

“ Reverting to the letters of administration, it was  
“ evident from the fact of their having been granted  
“ to John Bridges, that no such person existed as  
“ Edward. Suppose an inheritance of property, and  
“ not of honour, were now in question—what would  
“ their lordships say to a claim, preferred through a  
“ person in the situation of Edward, who had neg-  
“ lected to apply for the property of an aunt who had  
“ died intestate, and whose effects, for want of a  
“ nearer relative, had devolved upon a person stand-  
“ ing in the relation of John Bridges to the intestate?  
“ The conclusion is that Edward could not have been  
“ living, or that there was no Edward at all.

“ With regard to Mr. Townsend, many reflections  
“ had been thrown out against him and his character,

“ and, according to all appearance, very unjustly.

“ That gentleman,” said Mr. Attorney-general, “ stands

“ before your lordships as a man considerably injured.”

The learned counsel then read and commented on the evidence on that point, and declared that “ the

“ word *confidential* had been wilfully misconstrued.

“ Mr. Egerton Brydges spoke, in a former part of the

“ proceedings, of his having withdrawn from Mr.

“ Townsend his confidence—if it should turn out that

“ the reason for his having so done had been Mr.

“ Townsend’s refusal to withhold the letters of ad-

“ ministration by which he knew that his pretensions

“ would have been destroyed, their lordships would

“ not be surprised at the manner now adopted of com-

“ menting on the word *confidential*. Mr. Townsend

“ has abilities and talents, and his professional cha-

“ racter is at stake : that gentleman never meant to

“ deny that he had been employed by the claimant—

“ he had very properly objected to the term, *legal*

“ *confidential* agent, which has generally a different

“ signification.

“ On the Harbledown pedigree, he should observe,

“ that it was an object to prove, on the part of the

“ crown, that an Edward Bridges, born at that place,

“ might have been *the* Edward who married Cath-

“ erine Sharpe. Now, an Edward Bridges was bap-

“ tized at Harbledown in 1606 : the claimant’s family

“ appeared to have had intimate connexion with this

“ Harbledown family of Bridges. This part of the

“ case, too, has an awkward complexion—an oblite-



“ rated register, entire when Coleman examined it  
“ —the entry of an Edward now admitted to be dis-  
“ cernible—a singular coincidence of circumstances  
“ that *this Edward* should be obliterated, when com-  
“ bined with other causes for suspicion : other proofs  
“ of the connexion of the Harbledown family, arising  
“ from the will of the grocer and the bond of surety.

“ He had overlooked a very material part of the  
“ evidence for the crown, the will of Ann Jackson  
“ alias Bridges, who was without doubt the same  
“ Ann mentioned in Sir John Astley’s will : the first  
“ bequest in her will is to her aunt lady Astley, and  
“ she remembers also the poor of Maidstone. What  
“ became now of Mrs. Best, and the famous letter  
“ and receipt ?”

## SECTION VII.

RE-EXAMINATION OF SEVERAL OF THE WITNESSES BY  
THE LORDS COMMITTEES, TOUCHING PARTICULAR POINTS  
IN THEIR FORMER EVIDENCE.

AFTER the attorney-general had concluded the summing up of the evidence, on the part of the crown, on the 1st of April 1803, Mr. Erskine was heard for the claim on that day, as well as at two subsequent sittings, on the fourth and fifth of the same month; but without offering any argument in support of his case, which had not been already stated by Mr. Harvey on the same side: and, the attorney-general having been heard in reply, the lords proceeded, on the 6th, to re-examine some of the witnesses upon several particulars in the evidence given by them, which appeared to require further elucidation.

Mr. TOWNSEND, to an inquiry, *when* he first saw the original Maidstone register, stated that, though he could not precisely answer that question, he certainly never saw the register until after the order had been made that all the original books should be produced, which he thought must have been in the interval between the close of the hearing in 1791 and the next hearing in 1794. He admitted that he had suggested to the then attorney-general, Sir Archibald Macdonald, the expediency of inspecting the

original registers, from which all those extracts, purporting to have been taken from them, had been produced in evidence: that his allusion had not been to that of Maidstone in particular; for he had not seen it, nor had any copy of the entries in his custody; that he had received from Mr. Egerton Brydges, long before the case had been brought before the house, extracts from the registers of Feversham and Ospringe. That, when the claim came to be heard at that bar, and the extracts from those registers were read, they were read differently from the copies so furnished to him; and that was one of the reasons which induced him to suggest the expediency of seeing the originals. Upon being asked in what the differences alluded to consisted, he said that, in the paper so formerly given to him, the name of *Bridges*, so far as he recollected, did not occur; the entries, purporting to be extracts from those two registers, being all of persons of the name of *Bridge*. That it had occurred to him as scarcely possible that a person, himself of the name of *Bridges*, searching a register for entries of his family, should make that mistake, and write the name uniformly *Bridge*.

Mr. Townsend stated that his other reasons for the suggestion were that, having been, before the 30th January 1791, desired, on the part of the attorney-general, to go into Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and to endeavour to trace the descendants of Anthony Bridges, he had found some registers in those counties, and elsewhere where he had occasion to search for the Bridges family, in a *multi-lated* state. He then read the following, part of his report to the crown solicitors, dated in February 1791:

“ I next went to Wilton, the residence of Charles  
 “ Bridges, the second son of the first lord Chandos.  
 “ Wilton is in the parish of Bridstow ; but the family  
 “ sometimes used the adjoining parish of Peterstow.  
 “ Both those registers are very old ; and I have  
 “ annexed copies of the extracts I made from them ;  
 “ but that of Bridstow has a chasm from August  
 “ 1591 to 1594, and another from August 1608 to  
 “ February 1609. Those chasms have been made *by*  
 “ *cutting out a leaf at each place ;* and, as far as I can  
 “ judge, *the mutilation is recent.*”

He was then asked in what state he found the Maidstone register at his first inspection of it ?

“ I declare I cannot tell. I cannot remember at  
 “ this distance of time.”

Q. “ Did then nothing extraordinary in the case  
 “ of the Maidstone register, strike you at that time ?”

A. “ If it did, it really is not in my recollection  
 “ now.”

Q. “ You have, since that, seen that register now  
 “ on the table ?”

A. “ I have.”

Q. “ Do you *now* think there is nothing extra-  
 “ ordinary in that register.”

A. “ I do not think *now* that there is nothing  
 “ extraordinary in that register.”

Mr. Townsend added, that he had been endeavouring to bring back to his recollection, if possible, the first view he had of the Maidstone register, but without effect : and he therefore could not make any comparison between the

impression it made on the first inspection, and the impression made on the late inspection.

He admitted it to be the duty of a herald to observe *the state* of the entry, as well as the entry itself; but that this register being, when it was brought up with others, in the custody of the attorney-general, he had it not under his eye, except occasionally, and then but for a short time. He could not tell whether he saw it first at Maidstone, or in London; but he did not think that he had that particular register in his contemplation when he recommended all the registers to be brought up to town.

Then the counsel for the claim were asked, whether any search had been made for the burial of Mrs. Best, or of Astley Best, in the parish of Owre, or in any other? To which Mr. Erskine and Mr. Harvey answered, that the search had been ineffectually made in that and the adjoining parishes.

Mr. Townsend stated, in answer to questions, whether searches had been made with respect to the family of Thomas Bond, described in the will of Ann Jackson alias Bridges, as her uncle, or of Thomas Bond therein described as her cousin? That these searches, as well as at Maidstone, Horton, and Farmingham, relative to the bequests, in the same will, to the poor of those parishes, had been made by Sir Isaac Heard; and he could not say whether the family of Astley, in 1639, had any estate or place of residence in the two latter parishes.

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At the next hearing, on the 20th April 1803, SIR ISAAC HEARD described his laborious, but up to that period, unsuccessful investigations, with a view to discover the precise connexion between Anne Jackson alias Bridges, and the persons, of the names of Bond and Morris, mentioned in her will. He stated, that he had visited the parishes of Farmingham and Horton Kirby, in the county of Kent, in the hope of finding some entry in the respective registers, or notices of the bequests to the poor in any table of benefactions, such as are usually set up in churches. That the register of Farmingham commenced in 1589, and he had searched the whole through very carefully, from that period down to the restoration: that he did not go to Maidstone, because he knew that Mr. Townsend had been there; and that the earliest entry at Horton Kirby of baptisms was of 1684, and of burials in 1678; so that he did not examine that register; but, neither at Farmingham or Horton, did he find any mention of the said bequests amongst the benefactions to the poor of those parishes.

The house of lords having, on the motion of lord chief justice Ellenborough, on the 7th of this month, ordered that the proper officer of the consistory court of Canterbury, having the custody of the transcript or duplicate of the parish register of Owre, should again attend with that document; MR. WILLIAM CULLEN, clerk of the registrar's office, was this day re-examined. It appeared, from his statement, that the bundle which contained the transcript in question, amongst other similar records for the deaneries of Sutton, Sittingbourne, and Ospringe for the year 1640-1, had been returned to his hands, after its production to the

committee in 1794,\* for the purpose of being re-delivered to the registrar, Mr. Abbot, since then deceased; and that, supposing the said transcript to be included in that bundle, he had delivered the same accordingly, when it was replaced in its usual depository; but that, upon being lately served with their lordships' order, he had referred to that bundle, without, however, finding the transcript therein. He then stated the practice of his office in regard to the custody and access to the records, and that no person had applied, subsequently to the delivery of the bundle, to inspect such bundle, or the particular record so missing, which he declared he had not seen since the day on which it had formerly been produced on this claim.

With a view to remove the adverse impression which the disappearance of a document so essential to the claimant's case had obviously created, Mr. Cullen was again examined at the next sitting of the committee on the 22nd of the same month.

After re-stating the return into the office, in 1794, of the bundle supposed to comprehend the Owre transcript, he was asked whether that document had been, for the first time, called for in the year 1794? To which he answered "I believe it was, to the best of my recollection." "Was it not called for in the year 1791?"—"I do not recollect, they were brought to the bar."—"What was brought to the bar?"—"Nine bundles of these registries."

The witness then stated, in reply to some leading questions, that the particular bundle containing the Owre transcript, had been amongst the nine bundles so brought up in

\* P. 13.

1791; but he did not recollect that it had been produced until 1794.

“ Whether you do not know that, at that time, this Owre duplicate had been seen, and was amongst those duplicates brought up in the year 1791?”

“ It certainly must be amongst them in 1791, *because* they were in my custody in the year 1794 or 1795, when I returned them back to the registrar.”

“ Do you recollect in what part of the year 1791 you brought them up?”

“ I do not.”

“ Within a month or two?”

“ I really cannot.”

“ Not at all?”

“ Not at all.”

“ As you are understood to have said in your former examination, that having produced them on one day in 1794, you received them back again on the same day;—at the time of receiving them, did you look for the Owre duplicate, the particular object of inquiry?”

“ No, I did not look for it; I presumed they were delivered back as I gave them. I presume it was amongst them at that time; as I did not see it taken from them.”

MR. TOWNSEND was called in, and stated, in reply to a question relating to the date of the commencement of his search for papers in the registrar's office at Canterbury, that he was there from the 20th to the 28th of April 1794; and, afterwards, from the 9th to the 13th of July in the



same year ; and that he began to inspect the unarranged transcripts of registers on the 10th of the latter month.

“ Whether, in your search for others, you searched also again in order to look at that of Owre ?”

“ I did not. I have a minute of all I looked at at that time.”

In reference to the answer which this witness had formerly given, viz. that his reason for suggesting the expediency of seeing the original registers was, first, because the extracts from the registers of Feversham and Ospringe had been read different from the copies which were in his possession, he was now asked, in what respect were they different ?

“ In the copies given to me, the name was written uniformly without an *s*.”

“ Had the reason of that not been explained to you before you suggested, upon that account, the necessity of calling for that particular register ?”

“ I do not, at this moment, know what the reason was.”

“ Did you never understand that it was from some mistake with respect to an abbreviation in the writing of Bridge for Bridges ?”

“ Not as referring to that paper at all. I remember hearing a reason assigned to the then attorney-general and myself, below the bar, that the copies given to him had been copied from extracts taken by another person ; but the two persons, who concurred in that observation, could not agree between themselves which of them it was who had written the copy in my possession.”

“ Was there not upon that copy some word that signified a doubt whether it was *Bridge* or *Bridges*?”

“ I think not, as generally applying to all the entries in that paper. I have a faint recollection that there were on that paper the words ‘*doubtful whether the name is Bridges in the register* ;’ but I think that doubt referred only to *Edward Bridge* or *Bridges*, buried at Feversham 1665 ; and, if I recollect right, to no other.”\*

“ Whether you have that copy that you made use of on that occasion ?”

“ I have great doubt whether I have the paper that I first produced to the attorney-general. I rather think that paper I left with him. But I have either that or a duplicate of it at hand, if the house wishes to see it.

“ The question relates to the paper containing the directions you are supposed to have received upon the part of the claimant ?”

“ I am not at all speaking of that paper.”

“ The question refers to that paper ?”

“ Then I have quite a different answer to make : I have that paper at hand, and can show it to the house.”

The witness delivered it in, and said, “ That is the

\* The entry stands thus in the paper referred to :

“ October 13th, 1665, Edw'd Bridges (doubtful whether that was the name in the register ;) buried — F. R.” In all the other sixteen entries, with the exception of two, of which one is *Brigge* and the other *Bridges*, the name is written *Bridge*. (Appendix, n. XVII.)

“ paper of instructions which I received for the purpose of preparing the petition to the king.”\*

“ Another of the reasons you have given for having the originals seen, is where you speak of the register of *Bridstow* (*p. 146 of the printed minutes*); ‘ That of *Bridstow* has a chasm from August 1591 to 1594, and another from August 1608 to February 1609. Those chasms have been made by cutting out a leaf at each place, and, as far as I can judge, the mutilation is recent.’ Whether these very parish registers had not been brought up to London long before for the purpose of inspection?”

“ No.”

“ They never were?”

“ To my knowledge, never. They were brought up afterwards.”

“ After what time?”

“ After the date of that paper which I quoted a few days ago, dated 1st February 1791; and on the 23d February 1791, I received a note from Mr. White, informing me that the registers of *Bridstow*, *Feversham*, *Ospringe*, and *Maidstone*, were arrived in town, and were at the attorney-general’s chambers, or would be on the next day.”

“ Then are you to be understood, that you never saw in London, or knew that that register of *Bridstow* had been before the attorney-general previous to that time?”

\* See Appendix, n. XVIII.

“ I certainly never knew that they had, previous  
 “ to that time. I believe extracts from them were  
 “ read, at Mr. attorney-general’s, on the morning  
 “ there was an attendance upon him to investigate  
 “ the claim.”

“ But nothing but the extracts, with no observa-  
 “ tions upon the state of the registers ?”

“ I cannot speak with certainty respecting any evi-  
 “ dence that was that day produced before the at-  
 “ torney-general, except such as I produced myself.  
 “ But I firmly believe that no original register was at  
 “ all produced on that occasion ; for I never remem-  
 “ ber such a thing to have been done in any other  
 “ case.”

According to the printed minutes (p. 163), Mr. Townsend added, that he did not recollect any other instance where original registers had been produced even at that bar.

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The information elicited by the examination which took place at the next hearing before the committee, on the 25th of April 1803, is so material to the history of the case, and towards enabling the reader to form a just opinion of the individuals whose conduct and character were more particularly under consideration, that it is deemed indispensable to give the evidence almost entire from the minutes of the committee.

MR. WILLIAM CULLEN was examined as follows :

“ Was the duplicate of the *Maidstone* register  
 “ brought up in the year 1791 ?”

“ I believe it was. The same bundle was brought up in 1791 that was delivered in in 1794.”

“ When were you first applied to, to search for the duplicate of the Maidstone register ?”

“ I do not recollect.”

“ You recollect, probably, as to the year ?”

“ I really do not recollect the time at all.”

“ Was it, or was it not, a short time before they were first brought up ?”

“ Not long before : but really I cannot speak exactly to the time.”

“ Do you at all recollect who were present at that time, when search was made for the Maidstone registry ?”

“ I believe it was searched for by Mr. Brydges ; and I believe Mr. Townsend had seen it before.”

The question and answer were read to the witness ; and he said, “ Not before 1791.”

“ Who were present at the first search, in 1791, for these documents ?”

“ The searches were made the first time by Mr. Brydges, before 1791.”

“ Have you anything to add to that answer, as to anybody else being present ?”

“ Only myself, to my knowledge.”

“ Was Mr. Harvey present with them at any time ?”

“ I do not recollect : I did not take particular notice who attended them.”

“ Did you say, probably he might ?”

“ He probably might.”

“ Were any of those records carried into a private room, to be examined, at any time ?”

“ They have been moved from the room where they were usually kept, into a room where I usually sit myself. I was by at the time.”

“ At all the times when they have been so moved and so examined ?”

“ Those papers were delivered to me, when brought up in 1791: they remained in my possession till they were produced before the house. I was very particular to be always present, knowing them to have been brought up, and supposing they would be called for again.”

“ You have just said, you were particularly attentive to keep these under your own eye: did you pay the same attention at the last time they were brought up to the house of lords ?”

“ I did, till the time I returned them back to the registrar.”

“ But without examining whether the *Owre* duplicate was within the bundle, or not ?”

“ I did not examine when I received them back from the house; of course I presumed they were in the bundle.”

“ When they were brought to London, whether you know that they were shown to the attorney-general ?”

“ I do not recollect.”

“ Were they ever shown to other persons ?”

“ No.”

“ If it was the course of your department, before the year 1791, to be always present when persons made their search ?”

“ I cannot be always present ; there is nobody but myself.”

“ Then have you ever permitted persons to search these records when you were not present ?”

“ I have known Mr. Townsend to be there for weeks at different times ; once he was there a whole week.”

“ And, during that time, was he by himself in the office searching those records ?”

“ I remember one day in that week my being sent out of town : I was not present the whole day.”

“ Do you recollect what year and week that was ?”

“ I do not.”

“ Can you recollect the year ?”

“ I do not. I did not take any notice so as to be able to remember it.”

“ Do you recollect any other person than Mr. Townsend being alone in the office ?”

“ There was a gentleman of the name of *Campbell*, whose name I did not recollect when I was here last.”

“ Then Mr. Campbell has been alone searching ?”

“ He had the same privilege as Mr. Townsend, of searching alone.”

“ And you do not recollect the year of Mr. Campbell being there ?”

“ I do not.”

“ Do you recollect any other persons than Mr. Townsend and Mr. Campbell, or that any other persons have searched the records by themselves when you were not present ?”

“ I do not recollect any other persons being so long together.”

“ Mr. *Brydges* might have been in the office by himself ?”

“ Mr. *Brydges* might certainly have been alone ; and I might have been called out during part of the time. When Mr. *Brydges* has made search, it has been usually only for an hour, and I have been usually attending him.”

“ Do you mean to say that Mr. *Brydges* never was alone in the office, or that he was ?”

“ I really cannot recollect whether he was or was not.”

“ By whom was your attention first drawn to the transcript of the Maidstone register for 1603 ?”

“ I believe it was searched first by Mr. *Brydges*, to the best of my recollection.”

“ By whom was the transcript of the Owre register first shown to you, or pointed out to your attention ?”

“ Of those nine bundles of registers which were first produced here, I did not know what particular registers were required to be produced till I came to the bar of the house ; only that I was to produce those bundles at the bar.”



“ Had you never seen the Owre transcript before you took it out of the bundle at the bar of this house ?”

“ I do not recollect I ever did, that particular register.”

“ Have you never had any conversation with anybody respecting the transcript of that date, supposed to be in that bundle ?”

“ I do not recollect I ever had.”

“ By whom were you required to produce the bundles ?”

“ By order of Mr. Brydges those bundles were laid out, and first brought to town.”

“ Had Mr. Brydges, or any person on his behalf, inspected those bundles before the general production of them was required ?”

“ The Mr. *Brydgeses* certainly had.”

“ Had you any knowledge of the existence of the Owre transcript, either by communication with Mr. Brydges or otherwise, before it was first found in the bundle upon its production at the bar of this house ?”

“ I do not recollect anything of it.”

“ Had Mr. Brydges, upon several occasions prior to the time when you were required to produce that bundle, been in the office inspecting the records ?”

“ Certainly he had.”

“ Can you specify the earliest time at which he had been there occupied in inspecting those documents ?”

“ I do not recollect.”

“ Had the inspection of those documents been had  
“ by Mr. Townsend, or Mr. Brydges, first ?”

“ By Mr. Brydges first.”

“ Can you specify what interval of time intervened  
“ between the inspection by Mr. Brydges and then by  
“ Mr. Townsend ?”

“ I really cannot.”

“ Had Mr. Brydges opportunities of inspecting  
“ them alone, and without the view of yourself or  
“ Mr. Abbot ?”

“ I do not recollect ever leaving Mr. Brydges alone,  
“ to my knowledge. His searches were generally  
“ very short ; perhaps an hour in a day ; and I  
“ usually attended him.”

“ Can you state in the whole what time Mr.  
“ Brydges might have visited the office for the pur-  
“ pose of searches ?”

“ I cannot.”

“ Within any compass ? Ten or twenty times ?”

“ I really cannot ; I took no notice.”

MR. TOWNSEND was then called in, and examined as follows :

“ Can you recollect whether, in 1791, the dupli-  
“ cates of the Maidstone and Owre registers were  
“ shown to the attorney-general, or not ?”

“ I think I can speak with great certainty, that  
“ neither the one nor the other were laid before the  
“ attorney-general in 1791. The confidence with  
“ which I say this, arises from this circumstance.

“ The proposal of the attorney-general, in 1791, was  
“ to have the inspection of the original registers from  
“ which the extracts, which had been already read at  
“ the bar, purported to be taken. The matter of  
“ Owre was not at all in contemplation in 1791. If  
“ your lordships look to the ‘ Further Case’ of the peti-  
“ tioner, you will see it there stated, that the receipt  
“ was discovered *after the hearing in 1791*, and that  
“ the discovery of that receipt *led to the searching*  
“ the registers to find the marriage.”

“ At what time, then, was the original Maidstone  
“ register, with the other documents which you had  
“ suggested the necessity of being brought to London,  
“ so brought ?”

“ Within a few days after the permission obtained  
“ from the house.”

“ Whether you do not know that the Bridstow  
“ register was not then examined by the attorney-  
“ general, when it was brought to town ?”

“ I do not exactly know that it was. My notice  
“ was from Mr. White, that the registers would be at  
“ the attorney-general’s chambers. I went thither  
“ that evening, and the registers were not there.  
“ Some of the parties, who brought them, were at  
“ Peel’s coffee-house in Fleet-Street. I saw the  
“ Feversham and Ospringe registers certainly ; but I  
“ have no memorandum about those of Maidstone  
“ or Bridstow. I have not any doubt that those  
“ books were all at the attorney-general’s chambers,

“ and of course I inferred that he inspected them. I do not recollect inspecting them myself with the attorney-general.”

“ Neither at that time, nor subsequently before they were returned ?”

“ I do not recollect that I did. Afterwards, I saw the Maidstone register at Maidstone.”

“ Then, generally, you do not recollect any discussion with the attorney-general respecting those mutilations, or with any other officer of the crown ?”

“ I do not. I am inclined to think that the Bridstow register did not undergo any nice investigation ; for, in truth, there was nothing derived from that register on the part of the claimant.”

“ In short, you do not know ?”

“ No.”

“ When were you first acquainted with the existence of the letters of administration of lady Astley ?”

“ I believe in the month of November 1789 ; I cannot state the precise day.”

“ Whether you, at that time, was employed as an assistant to the claimant, or particularly by the crown ?”

“ I believe the true answer to that is, both.”

“ As an assistant to the claimant in respect to his case, and to the crown in your official situation ?”

“ I was employed, on behalf of the claimant, from the year 1784 to the close of the hearing in 1791. All the books and documents produced from the Heralds' office, in support of his case, were produced

“ here by me at their request. I discovered these  
“ letters of administration whilst I was making search  
“ to strengthen their case for them. Having dis-  
“ covered them, I stated it to them, and gave my  
“ opinion that it was a piece of evidence fatal to their  
“ claim. The answer to me was, *if it makes against*  
“ *us, we are not bound to produce it.*”

“ Do you remember when that answer was made,  
“ or when that communication was?”

“ I communicated the discovery the very first op-  
“ portunity I had of seeing Mr. Egerton Brydges after  
“ it had been made.”

“ When?”

“ In a very few days after; and it was the subject  
“ of dispute between us every time we met after I  
“ had so stated it. I pressed for its being produced  
“ by themselves; and I said, that, at all events, *it*  
“ *must be produced*; it was better that they should  
“ produce it. Then they argued against the effect of  
“ it. I was shortly after told, that the matter was  
“ not so decisive against them; for that Edward, the  
“ nephew of lady Astley, who would have been en-  
“ titled to administer if he had been living, was in  
“ fact dead at the time when administration was  
“ granted; that his son was a minor, and stood in as  
“ remote a degree of consanguinity to lady Astley as  
“ John Bridges, to whom the letters of administra-  
“ tion were decreed; and that, so standing, it was in  
“ the breast of the Ordinary to grant administration to  
“ John, or to the son of Edward, as he might choose.”

“ Have you anything else to say on that ?”

“ I was asked, *whether I intended to produce them.*

“ I said, certainly they must be produced ; and again  
 “ recommended the production of them on the part of  
 “ the claimant. It was urged to me that it would be  
 “ extremely unjust in me to produce this matter  
 “ which I had discovered in my endeavour to help  
 “ the case, ‘ We thought our case,’ they said, ‘ good  
 “ enough when you interposed and recommended  
 “ further search. You offered your services to make  
 “ that further search ; and, in the course of that  
 “ search, you have found this as our agent, and at  
 “ our expense.’ The argument pressed on my mind  
 “ strongly. I could not ask advice : for if I stated  
 “ the case, I must tell that which it was contended  
 “ I ought not to tell. I should else certainly have  
 “ availed myself of at least Sir Isaac Heard’s. But,  
 “ thus situated, I had nothing but my own judgment  
 “ to act upon. I then formed the resolution not to  
 “ mention this business of the letters of administration  
 “ till the claimant should have gone entirely through  
 “ his case ; because he might change his mind and  
 “ choose to produce them himself. If I had antici-  
 “ pated the production of them, it might have been  
 “ said that I had done it at least ill-naturedly. Upon  
 “ the 15th of April 1794, I stated the circumstances  
 “ relative to this piece of evidence at this bar.\* At

\* There is no notice of such statement in the printed minutes of evidence. The proceedings on the letters of administration were first produced at the next hearing after that date, viz. on the 21st of April 1795.

“ the end of the hearing in 1791, the claimant petitioned for further time to look for evidence, as I remember ; and, some time after, being in the prerogative office, I looked again at the entry of the grant of these letters of administration, with a view to take a more perfect copy than I had formerly taken. I found the entry obliterated in different parts, and the reference to it in the index also in some degree obliterated. The book is now on the table.”

“ Whether, at the time you communicated these letters of administration to the claimant, or to any body on his behalf, you recommended a search for them, and advised the best method by which they might obtain the end of such search ?”

“ No, I had *found* them.”

“ To the claimant, or Mr. Egerton Brydges, in order that they might see the original ?”

“ My communication was made to Mr. Egerton Brydges. The piece of evidence which I had discovered, was in the prerogative office. Mr. Egerton Brydges was entirely, if not quite as well acquainted with the nature of searching in the prerogative office as myself. I told him that there was no reference to this in the *general* index ; for, in truth, there are no references to letters of administration in the general index of the prerogative office at that period, with the exception of one or two years. From their earliest date to 1658, I think, the books which contain these entries have some of them indexes ; some not. But any person going to

“ the prerogative office to ask to see the record of  
“ letters of administration granted in any year within  
“ the period which their records embrace, would find  
“ no difficulty.”

“ Then you are certain that you did not state that  
“ there would be a difficulty to Mr. Egerton Brydges’s  
“ finding those letters of administration ?”

“ I do not remember that I did. I do not think it  
“ possible I could, beyond the difficulty I have stated ;  
“ namely, that the general index of the office did not  
“ refer to letters of administration prior to a certain  
“ period, which I think is 1658.”

“ You are understood to say, that you purposely  
“ kept back the circumstance of this discovery till  
“ the claimant should close his case : you were then  
“ assisting on the part of the claimant until the last  
“ hearing in 1791 ?”

“ So far assisting as to produce such evidence as a  
“ herald ought to produce here. I do not mean to  
“ say that I made any further searches, or was em-  
“ ployed in any way officially, otherwise than in the  
“ production of such evidence as was to be furnished  
“ from the Heralds’ office.”

“ When was you first employed by the crown in  
“ this case more particularly than in your official  
“ capacity ? The question alludes to a journey you  
“ said you made by the direction of the solicitor to  
“ the treasury.”

“ The date is on the printed minutes.”

“ Whether you stated to the claimant that you



“ were so engaged, or not, or to anybody upon the part of the claimant ?”

“ No ; I do not think I did ; but it was known to him.”

“ When did you suppose it was known to him ?”

“ I knew it was known to him at my return from that search ; for Mr. Egerton Brydges called on me, having seen the report made by me to Messrs. Chamberlayne and White : he appeared to be much hurt at that passage in it which related to the Bridstow register.”

“ Whether you communicated anything of the letters of administration to his majesty’s attorney-general, or to any other officer of the crown ?”

“ I did not communicate them to any being upon earth besides Mr. Egerton Brydges. I was aware that my death might prevent the circumstance from being known, if that death should take place pending the claim. I therefore, in the summer of the year 1791, desired my brother, who, if I had died, would have had the management of all that belonged to me, to put his mark upon the second entry that I had made after I had discovered the mutilation of the record, by which he would know that entry again ; telling him that, in case of my death, he would find a paper directing him what to do in that business.”

“ The eighteenth of February having been the last hearing in 1791, when the counsel for the claimant informed the committee that they had no further

“ evidence to offer — did you not consider that as the  
 “ conclusion of the claimant’s case, and that an op-  
 “ portunity was then afforded to you for communicat-  
 “ ing the discovery of the letters of administration ?”

“ I should certainly have considered it as the con-  
 “ clusion of the claimant’s case, and that as the pro-  
 “ per moment for the communication alluded to ; but  
 “ for the motion which followed that declaration, and  
 “ called for the original registers. This appeared to  
 “ me to keep the claim still open to the claimant’s  
 “ asking further time to seek for evidence. I may  
 “ be incorrect in stating that the claimant did petition  
 “ for further time.”

“ Understanding that the recommendation pro-  
 “ ceeded from you to examine the originals, whether  
 “ you were not induced so to do by your duty to the  
 “ crown as an officer in the Herald’s College ?”

“ Certainly, when I produced the paper to the  
 “ attorney-general which led to this motion on his  
 “ part, I told him that I thought it my duty, situated  
 “ as I was, to lay that paper before him. He said,  
 “ ‘ Certainly, sir, it is your duty ;’ and, after that, he  
 “ sent to Mr. White to desire that I would make the  
 “ searches which I did make.”

“ Whether the directions of the solicitor to the  
 “ treasury were given before or after the last hearing  
 “ in 1791 ?”

“ Certainly before.”

“ Having said that the attorney-general applauded  
 “ you for performing your duty in communicating a

“ matter which created a doubt about the claimant’s  
 “ case respecting the original registers and other docu-  
 “ ments, do you not think that you were particularly  
 “ called upon by that circumstance to communicate  
 “ also the matter respecting the letters of adminis-  
 “ tration ?”

“ I have stated already the resolution I had formed  
 “ upon that business. I am certainly in your lord-  
 “ ships’ judgment upon the wisdom of that conduct ;  
 “ but for the integrity of it I have no fear.”

“ When did you first communicate publicly this  
 “ circumstance ; when, to whom, and where ?”

“ On the 15th of April 1794, I related the circum-  
 “ stance relative to these letters of administration at  
 “ this bar, in consequence of the remark made by a  
 “ noble and learned lord to Mr. Attorney-general,  
 “ stating that he had understood that I had had an  
 “ inspection of all Mr. Brydges’s papers in the matter  
 “ of this claim. I found it necessary therefore to  
 “ give the history of my proceeding in that business.  
 “ I have no further note ; because I did expect that  
 “ that which I had stated would have appeared upon  
 “ the printed evidence ; but it did not find its way  
 “ there. I suppose I might have given it informally ;  
 “ and therefore it did not appear there.”

“ But it was a communication respecting the dis-  
 “ covery of the letters of administration ?”

“ Certainly.”

“ Had you communicated them previously to the  
 “ attorney-general, or was that the first ?”

“ It was the first communication I ever made of it,  
“ except that to Mr. Egerton Brydges. I thought it  
“ called for at that moment, because I perceived there  
“ was an opinion in the noble lord who made that  
“ remark, that I had been in possession of all the  
“ evidence and papers of the claimant. As I never  
“ had any communication whatsoever of the proofs by  
“ which the claimant intended to join his Edward to  
“ Anthony, I thought it a duty that I owed myself to  
“ take such an opportunity, as then appeared, to  
“ acquit myself.”

“ Whether you had not given your advice, with  
“ regard to the best method of pursuing the claim, to  
“ the claimant himself, or to some person employed by  
“ him, thereby including the question of this neces-  
“ sary connexion ?”

“ I certainly drew the petition for the claimant that  
“ was presented to his majesty. I delivered that  
“ petition to the under secretary of state ; but I had  
“ no documents before me by which Edward, who  
“ married Catherine Sharpe, could be connected in the  
“ line of descendants from Anthony, other than the  
“ paper which I received from Mr. Egerton Brydges,  
“ and delivered in at the bar at the last day of  
“ hearing.”

The witness here, in answer to a relative question, again stated that the producing to the attorney-general the paper of extracts from the Feversham and Ospringe registers, received many years before from Mr. Egerton Brydges, and which the witness believed to be in that gentleman's

hand-writing, had induced the attorney-general to call for the original registers.

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The consideration of the claim was resumed by the committee on the 27th of the same month ; when Mr. TOWNSEND was asked by the duke of Norfolk, earl marshal, what he knew concerning the marriage between Edward Bridges and a person of the name of Sharpe? to which the witness answered :

“ There is an entry of that marriage in the Feversham register, as having taken place on the 18th of June 1627. When I was at Canterbury in 1794, I searched in the book of marriage licences, to see whether I could find any licence entered for that marriage. In looking over the book, I found that a leaf or more of it was wanting, from, I think, the 9th to the 17th of June. I believe the book is now in the house. I marked the pages on each side [of the chasm] with the initials of my name, in the presence of Mr. Cullen, the clerk, and Mr. Campbell, who was with me.”

“ You have said a leaf was torn out from the book : was it torn out when you first saw it ?”

“ It was.”

“ Did it appear to have been recently torn ?”

“ I could not form any judgment.”

“ Did there appear any defects in the letters or words of the entry [in the Feversham register], or were they plain and clear ?”

“ I do not remember that I looked at that entry particularly, but I have no doubt that it was a correct entry.”

“ Were you ever alone in the office of which Mr. Cullen spoke ?”

“ To my knowledge never : I took great care never to be alone.”

Q. (*by Lord Bolton*).—“ You are understood to have said, that the letters of administration, in which there is no mention of *Edward Bridges*, the administration being granted to *John Bridges*, a more distant relation to lady Astley, were, in your opinion, fatal to the success of the claimant of the Chandos peerage—Do you mean to say that that was the principal reason why you thought it fatal ?”

“ It appeared to me that if the claimant, instead of deducing his descent from *Anthony*, had claimed under *John*, it would have been scarcely possible for him to have produced a stronger piece of evidence to raise a presumption of the extinction of *Anthony's* line than these letters of administration.”

“ Had not John, to whom the administration was granted, a sister called *Frances* ?”

“ I believe he had. It appears so by a visitation of the county of Southampton in 1686.”

“ She then, if alive at that time, would have had an equal right to claim an equal share of that administration with her brother—would she not ?”\*

\* See Appendix, n. XXII.

“ That is a point which I do not feel myself quite competent to speak to.”

Mr. Townsend then requested permission to correct some parts of the evidence given by him at the last sitting of the committee, \* viz. Having stated that he believed he had been, in November 1789, first acquainted with the existence of the letters of administration of lady Astley, he was asked whether he was, at that time, employed as an assistant to the claimant, or particularly by the crown; and had answered, “ I believe the true answer to that is, both.”

Now the witness said :

“ Perhaps, in answer to this last question, I should have said that I was, at that time, employed on behalf of the claimant; but not, at that time, particularly employed on the part of the crown, otherwise than as generally. I thought it my duty to guard the crown as far as lay in my power. I make that distinction; because, some time afterwards, I was particularly employed by the crown.”

The witness was now desired to state when he had been first particularly employed by the crown in this case?

“ The letter from Mr. White to me is dated the 8th of January 1791, and that directs me to make such search as I should think best to ascertain the line of descent from Anthony Bridges.”

“ Whether, after that, you considered yourself as particularly employed by the claimant?”

“ Mr. Egerton Brydges frequently came to me, after that, in the office; and I gave him copies of some.

\* P. 174 of the printed Minutes.

“ pedigrees at his own request, after the date, and his  
 “ knowledge, of my report to Messrs. Chamberlayne  
 “ and White.”

Another correction, which the witness desired leave to make, had reference to the time when he had suggested to the attorney-general the expediency of calling for the original parish registers, which, according to the former answer given,\* had been stated to be after the delivery to that law-officer of the paper of extracts from the Fever-sham and Ospringe registers. The witness now desired to say that the suggestion to inspect the original registers was made in consequence of the searches in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, and not of the delivery of that paper.

Mr. Townsend was then asked, whether the doubt, how far the circumstance of the letters of administration might prove so unfavourable to the claim, as he had at first thought, had arisen from considering the indenture of 1659,† to which it was supposed Edward would have been necessarily a party, had he been living at that date ?

To which he answered, that he had no recollection about the indenture of 1659, or that it had been at any time communicated to him ; nor that it had been stated to him upon what circumstance the doubt had arisen of Edward being alive when the administration was granted : but that he had been told that his burial had been found at Canterbury to have taken place in 1646 ; and that his son, being then a minor, and one degree further removed from lady Astley than his father had been, was equally distant from the intestate with John Bridges of Gloucestershire ; and that,

\* P. 178 of the printed Minutes.

† P. 24.



being so, the Ordinary might choose between him and John, and would probably have preferred John, because he was an adult. The witness could not say when he first heard of a supposition that Edward died in 1646.

Mr. HIRAM CAMPBELL deposed to having attended Mr. Townsend during his searches at Canterbury in 1794; that Mr. Cullen was present at those examinations; and that Mr. Egerton Brydges came into the office and went into an adjoining room, where the witness understood he was attended by Mr. Abbot.

Mr. CONRAD COULTHURST (who had produced, on 17th February 1791, copies from the Maidstone register of the entries purporting to be of the baptism of Edward and Ann Bridges in 1603, and of the burial of Robert Bridges in 1636,) was then called in, and asked, whether he had observed any thing in the state of the entry of baptism, which he thought required particular notice? answered,

“ Certainly not. I observed, in taking that copy,  
 “ that I was particular as to the manner of spelling  
 “ the words, as in the original entry.”

“ Have you seen the book since that time?”

“ I saw it when it was brought up to the late  
 “ attorney-general, Sir Archibald Macdonald.”

“ Did there then appear any difference to you in  
 “ the state of that entry, from what it was when you  
 “ saw it before?”

“ I cannot exactly recollect; but I think there  
 “ was some little difference, as far as my memory  
 “ goes.”

“ Can you recollect what the difference appeared to  
 “ be?”

“ I think it appeared as if somebody had taken a pen, and made blacker with ink, what was not quite so legible before.”

“ Was it sufficiently legible before to make you have no doubt of the correctness of your copy?”

“ Quite so.”

“ Do you know of your own knowledge when the transcript of that registry was brought from Canterbury to London?”

“ In 1791.”

“ Do you recollect in what time of the year 1791?”

“ About the beginning of May.”

Then the witness looked at a paper; and was asked:—

“ What are you reading?”

“ A memorandum of Mr. Woodcock's.”\*

“ Did you see that memorandum made?”

“ I did not.”

The witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. SAMUEL WALTON, from the prerogative office, then delivered in the original act-book, containing the proceedings prior to the grant of letters of administration of the effects of lady Astley.†

On the 27th of April 1803, the house of lords ordered that Edward Hasted, esq., (author of the history of the county of Kent,) should attend at the sitting of the committee for privileges on the day following.

At the next hearing, on the 29th of April 1803, Mr.

\* The claimant's solicitor.

† See Appendix, n. IX. for the substance of these proceedings, abridged from the copies, in latin, printed in the Minutes, pp. 189 to 196.

Hasted was called in, and asked whence he had obtained the information, which he had stated in a note in the third volume of his work, viz., that the claimant is a descendant from the younger son of the first lord Chandos? To which he answered, "that he had received it from the present claimant, Mr. Edward Tymewell Brydges."

"Has not the history been many years in compiling?"

"Forty years."

"Did you not live many years at Canterbury?"

"Many years, and in the neighbourhood."

"Did you know the late Mr. Bridges, father of the claimant?"

"Very well."

"Had you ever any occasion, or opportunity, to converse or correspond with that Mr. Bridges on the subject of his family?"

"Several times."

"Did you understand the same fact, as being either in his knowledge or supposition, from the late Mr. Bridges?"

"He never mentioned a syllable about it, one way or the other."

"Did he take notice to you of any other connexions of his family?"

"He mentioned his maternal ancestors several times, and gave an account in writing of a very long pedigree of them; but he mentioned nothing of his own family."

"Whether you addressed any question to the late Mr. Bridges respecting his own family?"

“ Never.”

“ You have said that you inserted that note from information obtained from the claimant Mr. Tyme-well Brydges;—did the claimant ever give you an inspection of any documents upon which he founded that claim of pedigree?”

“ No, he never did.”

“ Did you ever inquire of him if he had such documents?”

“ The pedigrees, which I had from the gentlemen of the county since the revolution,\* I took from their own mouths, believing that gentlemen of respectability would tell me the truth.”

“ Then that note was inserted merely upon the authority of Mr. Bridges’s assertion?”

“ It was.”

“ Whether the late Mr. Bridges was not asked, as well as other gentlemen, for an account of his own family?”

“ I never asked him.”

“ What was the reason that the late Mr. Bridges was not asked about his family, as well as other gentlemen?”

“ As I never found it in any of the documents and records of public offices, nor in heraldic visitations of the county, I thought it would rather hurt him for me to mention it.”

“ You are understood to have said that the late

\* The period after which the heralds ceased to make their periodical visitations.

“ Mr. Bridges did not appear to you to have entertained an idea of this claim; how came you not to ask Mr. Bridges the state of his family, perfectly independent of this claim?”

“ I never heard there was any such claim as the claim to the barony of Chandos.”

“ Do you recollect the time when Mr. Brydges gave you the information, upon the authority of which you inserted that note?”

“ I believe it was about the year 1789 or 1790.”

“ Did you know of any connexion between Mr. Bridges of Wootton, and those of St. Nicholas?”

“ I had the pedigree of Mr. Bridges of St. Nicholas from himself, in which there is no connexion between the two families.”

“ Can you tell when the late Mr. Bridges died?”

“ I believe in the year 1781.”

---

The lords committees, having completed their examination of the witnesses, adjourned to the 9th of May, and further successively to the 12th and 17th of the same month; on which several days the matter was debated by their lordships, the earl of Guilford and lords Hawke and Bolton, amongst others, addressing the committee in favour, and the earls of Radnor and Rosslyn, and the lords Ellenborough and Alvanley, amongst others, against the claim.

On the 26th of May, the duke of Norfolk stated to the house that he had received a paper, purporting to be from the claimant, which was read as follows:

“ Wigmore-street, 20th May 1803.

“ My lord,

“ I have the honour of apprising your grace,  
 “ that Thursday next, the 26th instant, is appointed  
 “ for the final discussion in the committee of privileges  
 “ upon my claim to the Chandos peerage; and I have  
 “ been impelled to take this liberty that your grace  
 “ might not, by any accidental omission of notice, be  
 “ deprived of the opportunity of deciding upon a  
 “ matter, not important merely to myself, but to the  
 “ rights of your grace’s house of parliament, and to  
 “ the just prerogative of the crown.

“ I am not presuming to solicit any favour or par-  
 “ tiality from your grace. I address myself only to  
 “ your justice. I ask but for your grace’s candid  
 “ consideration of the evidence which is recorded in  
 “ the proceedings, and will survive for the information  
 “ of posterity, when all the insinuations and pre-  
 “ judices that I have had to struggle with shall be  
 “ altogether forgotten. It is upon the truth of that  
 “ evidence, my lord, that I am anxious to rest my  
 “ pretensions to character and the unsullied title of  
 “ my family. I have the honour, &c.

“ Edwd. Tymewell Brydges.”

Whereupon, after debate, the following resolutions were subsequently passed, and appear entered on the Journals of the House :—

“ 6 June 1803.

“ **RESOLVED**, nem. diss. that private solicitations,  
 “ by letters or otherwise, on matters of claims to

“ honours, or other judicial proceedings, is a breach  
 “ of privilege, and highly derogatory to the dignity of  
 “ this house :

“ **RESOLVED**, that this house will in future proceed  
 “ with the utmost severity against persons so offend-  
 “ ing.”

The committee met on the 13th ; when, after further  
 debate, † it was moved to resolve,

“ That it doth not appear to this committee, that the  
 “ reverend Edward Tymewell Brydges, clerk, claiming  
 “ the title and dignity of Baron Chandos of Sudeley,  
 “ hath made out his claim to the said title and dignity :”  
 upon which, it was proposed to adjourn until the morrow ;  
 which having been put and negatived, the original motion  
 was put—

Contents 15.\*

Not content 7.†

\* *Contents.*

† *Not content.*

D. Norfolk, E. M.

D. Clarence

E. Suffolk

Cumberland

Radnor

E. Guilford

Grosvenor

B. Saye and Sele

Carnarvon

Montfort

Rosslyn

Hawke

Bp. Oxford

Grantley.

B. Brownlow

Walsingham

Kenyon

Auckland

Bayning

Alvanley

Ellenborough

Arden.

Tellers, lord Alvanley and lord Hawke.

† The lord Chancellor, lord Eldon (who, before his elevation to  
 the peerage, had been of counsel for the claimant,) commented, in a  
 speech of considerable length, upon the evidence adduced for, and  
 against the claim, but did not vote.

On the same day, Lord Walsingham reported from the lords committees for privileges, to whom the claim to the barony of Chandos had been referred, that the committee had met and taken the petition into consideration had heard counsel as well on behalf of the petitioner as on the behalf of the crown, and had come to the foregoing resolution.

It was thereupon ordered that the report be taken into consideration on Thursday, the 16th of June.

On which day it was moved to agree with the committee in the said report, and resolved in the affirmative.

16 June 1803.

“ **RESOLVED** and **ADJUDGED**, by the lords spiritual  
“ and temporal in parliament assembled, that the  
“ petitioner, Edward Tymewell Brydges, hath not  
“ made out his claim to the title and dignity of  
“ baron Chandos of Sudeley.

“ **ORDERED**, that the said resolution and judgment be laid before his Majesty by the lords with  
“ white staves.”



## SECTION VIII.

## GENERAL VIEW OF THE CASE.

HAVING, in the foregoing sections, given an impartial summary of the proofs and arguments adduced, both in support of this singular case and on behalf of the crown; it is now proposed to offer a general view of its history, with reference, as we proceed, to several important points which were either wholly overlooked, or not sufficiently considered, during the discussion; as well as to some essential pieces of evidence which, though strictly relevant to the matter at issue, were not admissible according to the rules laid down for the reception of legal testimony.

It seems to be indispensable towards forming a just opinion on the merits of that case, to trace it, as far as may be practicable, to its origin, by inquiring at what precise period, and under what primary circumstances of encouragement, a family of the middle rank and more humble ancestry, which shared with a multitude of others from almost every parish in England, and out of every

class and condition of life, the surname of BRIDGES, had first imagined, and by what gradations it matured, a plan of erecting itself above its compeers in station, by preferring a claim to the baronial honour of the only ennobled stock of that surname.

From testimony produced, as we have seen, at the bar of the House of Lords, and from authentic documents which will be presently referred to, it appears that, so far back as the month of September 1784, five years before the death of the duke of Chandos, Mr., now Sir Samuel Egerton Brydges,\* instituted inquiries at the Heralds' college relative to the younger branches of the Chandos family, upon a supposition that he might be able to deduce his pedigree from some one of them; or rather, to ascertain how far the members of those branches might be so accounted for as to preclude the chance of his connexion.

Upon this occasion, the late Mr. Townsend, Windsor herald, to whom he addressed himself, committed to writing, according to the official custom, the account which Mr. Egerton Brydges gave of his descent, viz. that he was the second son of

\* This gentleman and his elder brother, the claimant, affected, about this time, doubtless not without a view to their immediate object, to write their surname "Brydges," in imitation of the practice in the ducal family for some generations back. But their father, who died in 1780, signed his name "Bridges" to his will and codicil.

Edward Brydges, of Wootton Court, in Kent, the son of John, the son of another John by a second wife; and that the last-mentioned John was the son of Edward Bridges, of Ospringe in that county, by Katherine Sharpe, his wife, who was of the adjacent parish of Feversham, where Edward, after his marriage in 1627, appeared to have settled.

The foundation of the belief which he professed to entertain of the connexion of his family with the noble house, was, as he stated, principally, if not solely, the use of the Chandos arms for several generations; and, as he farther stated, with the *mullet* for distinction, indicating a probable descent from the third, the only branch open for his speculation: for, unless he should happen to be descended from Anthony, the third son of the first lord Chandos, and whose daughter, Katherine, came into Kent in consequence of her marriage with Sir John Astley, of Maidstone, there was no ground to suppose that Edward Bridges, of Ospringe, could have been of a family whose different branches were all known to have been settled in the western counties.

There was not the least trace that Anthony Bridges had ever been an inhabitant of Kent: on the contrary, it appeared, by an addition made by Augustine Vincent, Windsor herald, (who died in

1625,) to a pedigree, in which Anthony had been entered without any description or residence, that he was of Avening in Gloucestershire, where his next brother Henry had also resided and was buried; and the inference that his only son, mentioned in that pedigree, namely, Robert, had been attracted into Kent by the Astley connexion, rested entirely upon an entry in the Maidstone register of the interment of a "Robert Bridges *esquire*" in 1636, and of a "Mrs. Bridges" in 1616, whom Mr. Egerton Brydges, at one time, supposed to have been the wife of Robert.

That the family of Edward Bridges, of Ospringe and Feversham, had not existed in Kent before 1607, was presumed, negatively, from the fact that the registers of those parishes did not contain any entry, prior to that date, of the name, written *Brigge* in 1607, and in fourteen out of sixteen subsequent entries, invariably *Bridge*.

In the paper communicating this hypothesis as to the date of the first settlement of Edward's family in Kent, it was asserted,\* *though without reference to any proof whatever of the fact*, that Edward actually bore the arms with the distinction of the third branch; and it was argued that, as he bore them with a distinction, he must have had them

\* Appendix, n. XV.

from his father ; and, as no man first takes up arms with a distinction in them, and neither Edward nor Robert were known to have had any brothers, the use of the arms so differenced probably ascended a generation higher, viz. to his supposed grandfather Anthony. His conjecture was stated to be, that Edward "*was born about 1600,*" Robert about 1570, and Anthony about 1540 ; thus assuming a period of thirty years for each generation.

Mr. Egerton Brydges stated also, at the date of the above-mentioned inquiries, that the office at Cantèrbury had been searched for wills or administrations of the ancestors of Edward ; but that none of the name of *Brigge* (the earliest mode of spelling the name in the Ospringe register) had been found ; which he accepted as an additional reason for presuming that the family of his immediate ancestors had not been inhabitants of Kent anterior to the earliest mention of them in that register, viz. in 1607 ; and for inferring from thence their migration from some other county.

This skilful genealogist seemed to possess, at that time, a very limited knowledge of the collaterals of his own race. According to a conjectural pedigree, delivered by him to Mr. Townsend before 1789,\* he supposed that his ancestor Edward had

\* Appendix, n. XVI.

intermarried secondly with the widow of a person of the same surname, by whom he had a son, Thomas Bridges, living in 1665 at St. Nicholas at Wade in the isle of Thanet; and that this widow had had, by her former husband, a son, John Bridges, described "the younger,"\* and a daughter, Mary, the wife of Thomas Violet;† citing for this conjecture the will of the said John Bridges the younger, in 1681, and that of Thomas Violet in 1665. This statement implied some research made by him in the will-office at Canterbury in that early stage of the inquiry—a fact at variance with the tenor of his depositions in the sequel.

On the paper in question there is a minute of an unsuccessful search in the will-office at Gloucester for any will of Anthony Bridges, or of his son Robert; and other notices concerning his searches relative to the family in different parts of Gloucestershire. There are also extracts from the parish registers of Bridstow, Peterstow, Dewsall, Aconbury, and Tewksbury, and copies of inscriptions on tombstones in the two latter churches.

These extensive investigations are mentioned as attesting the early and great diligence of Mr.

\* A grocer at Canterbury.

† Of Canterbury, barber.—See the true state of connexion between these parties in the Harbledown pedigree, III. in Appendix.

Egerton Brydges in his preparations for the contemplated claim.

About the same time, Mr. Egerton Brydges communicated another paper, with extracts from the Feversham and Ospringe registers, annexed to which is a deduction of his pedigree from Edward *Bridge* and Catherine Sharpe; with an evident anxiety, however, to show that, though the surname of the family in those parishes had most frequently been written in the register without the *s* final, that letter had sometimes been added; and the name of Bridges was accordingly underscored whenever it occurred. The fact, that his great-grandfather, John Bridges, grocer at Canterbury, had a sister, Mary the wife of Simon Millen, is also stated — a fact obtained from the will of the said John, proved in the archdeacon's court at Canterbury in 1699, which he then mentions, although, before the committee in 1794, he denied having searched for that document,\* and caused the same denial to be made by his counsel.†

Upon the back of the paper containing the extracts from the Feversham and Ospringe registers, there is a supposed pedigree from Anthony‡; but it is clear that the supposition, then entertained, was *antecedent* to the idea of fixing Edward as the

\* P. 18.

† P. 12.

‡ Appendix, n. XVII.

brother of Anne Bridges, the niece of lady Astley: and, considering that the Maidstone register had been the first object of his examination, (since the Astley alliance, and the record of the burial of a Robert Bridges in 1636, constituted the only basis of the supposition of the settlement in Kent,) it is more than probable, that had the interpolated entry of the baptism of Edward and Anne *then been already made*, this paper would have contained a reference to it. The thought had certainly presented itself to Mr. Egerton Brydges's mind of deducing his pedigree through Robert the brother of lady Astley; for, amongst the Ospringe extracts, the name of *Robert*, occurring as the son of Edward Bridge, and baptized in December 1632, and that of *Robert Bridges*, found in the Feversham register amongst the burials in the same month, are written in a larger hand: but the idea of accomplishing this object *by establishing Edward to have been brother to Anne the niece of lady Astley*, seems to have been first suggested by the entry of the burial of an *Anne Briggis* at Feversham in 1670; for, at the end of one of the papers above referred to,\* he has made this memorandum: "Anne Bridges, the  
 " *sister* of Edward B., who married Catherine  
 " Sharpe, was buried at Feversham, October 3  
 " 1670. Edwd. B. was buried there 1665."

\* Appendix, n. XVI.



The precise moment at which the idea of connecting himself, by means of Anne, lady Astley's niece, with the Chandos family, was first presented to the mind of Sir Egerton Brydges, is of course known only to himself. It is not certain, from any information before us, that it had even been conceived in October 1789, when, the death of the duke of Chandos having happened towards the close of the preceding month, the claimant and his brother were actively engaged in preparing the petition for the barony: for Mr. Townsend, who drew, transcribed, and presented that petition, deposed\* that he had at the time no document before him by which Edward, the husband of Catherine Sharpe, could be connected in the line of descendants from Anthony, and that his only authority was the paper of instructions which he had received from Mr. Egerton Brydges. Although Mr. Townsend, as an acute and experienced herald, could not have accepted the isolated entry in the Maidstone register as *proof* of such connexion, yet it was so strong a feature in the case, that it would assuredly have formed part of the allegations in the petition, if that entry had then been communicated to him.

But from the paper of instructions alluded to, and which was delivered to Mr. Townsend in October 1789,† it is *almost demonstrable*, that the entry

\* P. 116.

† Appendix, n. XVIII.

of the baptism of Edward and Anne in the Maidstone register did not exist when those instructions were written. It is clear that that register had been searched with a view to the claim; for the burial of a "Mrs. Bridges" (supposed to have been the wife of Robert) on the 4th September 1616,\* and Robert's burial on 15th July 1636, are mentioned in the paper: and it is incredible that, if the entry of 1603 had, at the time of such search, been there, it would not have been stated in those instructions; especially as it coupled Edward with Anne, acknowledged in the will of Sir John Astley as the niece of his wife.

At whatever period the entry found its way into the register, a COPY of it must have been produced, as usual in such cases, to the attorney-general (Macdonald) in January 1790. If that officer had *then* called for the original, his favourable report on the case would surely not have been made, and an unprofitable waste of the time and attention of the house of peers have been spared.†

\* This burial, though inserted in the claimant's first printed pedigree, and applied to the wife of Robert, was not attempted to be proved before the committee; as, in order to make it evidence, the *proof* of the *marriage* must have preceded it.

† Upon this subject, lord chancellor Eldon (in his address to the committee on the 13th June 1803, the day on which they recorded their resolution on the claim,) observed, "After what has appeared in this case, I trust it will be expected, in every future claim of

Mr. Townsend presented the petition on the 30th October 1789; and although it does not appear from his notes on what day the fact of the existence of such an entry in the Maidstone register was first imparted to him, yet it was most probably not long after the presentation of the petition; for it evidently induced him to try to strengthen the case by finding a will or letters of administration of the effects of lady Astley; which latter he deposed to having discovered, in the prerogative office, in or about the month of November 1789, though he could not recollect the precise day.

Up to that period, Mr. Townsend had relied on the declarations of Mr. Egerton Brydges, that evidence would not be wanting, amongst the family papers, to *prove* the filiation of Edward; and he could not imagine that the law-agents of the claimant would have advised the undertaking so costly a suit, had any reasonable doubt been entertained on that head. Perhaps others of his profession might, under such circumstances, and with such jejune evidence before them, have hesitated to proceed so far as to prepare and present a petition to

“ peerage, that all the evidence should be fully stated in the first instance; and that no attorney-general will ever again report upon any case to his majesty *without having himself previously seen and examined the ORIGINAL REGISTERS* from which the evidence is to be adduced.”

the king, without having all the proofs under their view by which the allegations they drew were to be substantiated; but if he felt that, in his official character, his duty was limited to the mere production of such evidence as the books of his office might afford, more especially in reference to the extinction of male issue in the two prior lines, and that the proofs to be derived from family deeds, wills, parochial registers, &c., in support of the claimants' immediate descent, would be to be exhibited by his law-advisers; his having forborne to secede so soon as he had discovered the Astley letters of administration, may possibly admit of extenuation. At all events, we have seen, by the course which he actually took, that he did regard that discovery as a fatal obstacle to the success of the claim, and that he was not negligent in strongly pressing such his opinion upon his client.

On the concealment of evidence of so decisive a character, lord Eldon (who, although he had been the claimant's leading counsel from the commencement of the proceedings, and had so continued to be, under licence, after he became attorney-general, and until the last hearing before the committee in 1795, appears to have been wholly unapprised of the discovery of that evidence,) expressed very strongly his opinion in his address to the committee on 13th June 1803. His lordship said—

“ There is another point in this case, my lords,  
 “ from which I cannot withhold the expression of my  
 “ surprise. I mean the production of those acts of  
 “ court, relative to the administration of lady Ast-  
 “ ley, which, notwithstanding the length of time,  
 “ nearly *thirteen* years, that this claim has been  
 “ in suit, were not produced till a late period of the  
 “ proceedings;\* and it is for your lordships to con-  
 “ sider what degree of attention is due to the testi-  
 “ mony on the part of those who do not bring their  
 “ evidence freely forward, but have withheld that  
 “ which, *had it been brought forward in the year*  
 “ 1791, when this suit commenced, might have saved  
 “ to the parties in this cause such an immensity of  
 “ expense, and to your lordships the trouble of *twelve*  
 “ years’ discussion on this subject.”

We shall reserve, for their proper place, our comments on the effect of the Astley administration upon the case; and now revert to the consideration of the entry in the Maidstone register.

The *copy* of that entry was produced at the bar of the house by Mr. Coulthurst, (a gentleman in the employ of the claimant’s solicitor,) on the 17th February 1791,† unaccompanied by any observation

\* His lordship did not recollect that an office copy of the proceedings, preparatory to the grant of the letters of administration, had been produced on 21st April 1795 (p. 25); though, unaccountably, the same does not appear in the printed Minutes until after the re-production on 27th April 1803.

† P. 7.

on the extraordinary state of the entry itself. The condition of the register in respect to this entry must have been concealed from the highly honourable and upright counsel (Sir John Scott and Mr. I. S. Harvey,) who had subscribed the case which contained a reference to it, and which had been presented to the house on the 5th of May 1790; for they would otherwise, if they had thought fit to give the sanction of their names to a case under such circumstances, have felt themselves bound to allude, at least, to the suspicious appearance of the principal connecting link of the chain, the continuity of which they were instructed to establish. Mr. Harvey, on summing up the evidence for the claimant in 1803, "*could not but declare that he thought it*" [the entry of 1603] "*an interlineation*;"\* but inferred that it might have been done by the person who had been intrusted to copy into the register-book the parochial transactions from loose papers supplied by the officiating clergyman or churchwarden, in correction of an accidental omission made by himself in the course of his copying. And lord Eldon, in his address to the committee, remarked

“ That it would not have been of much importance to  
“ any person designing to commit a forgery or fraud in

\* P. 70.

“ this cause, whether such an entry of baptism was  
“ made at the latter end of 1603 or 1604, or any  
“ other year *about that period* ; and it would have  
“ been just as easy to have entered the names of the  
“ children in the one year as in the other.”

But, in regard to these inferences, it will be seen, upon inspection of the register, that there was, in point of fact, no other space “*about that period*” upon which the entry could have been conveniently introduced. Each page is filled up by entries from the top to the bottom, where they are authenticated by the signatures of the minister and the two churchwardens. It was therefore absolutely necessary to make an erasure somewhere, and found to be most convenient to expunge two entries terminating the year 1603, (which entries, with two other entries of baptism still remaining, and celebrated on the same day, had been inclosed within a bracket,) in order to acquire the necessary space, and at the same time, preserve the original bracket, and the numbers 116 and 117 in the margin, which had evidently once referred to the two erased baptisms, and which were, after the interpolation, intended to refer appropriately to the baptism of two individuals, viz. Edward and Anne Bridges.

Inasmuch, however, as this erasure could not be made without encroaching upon the minister's

signature at the end of the year, *that* also was erased; and, as thereby more space was obtained than necessary, and the erasure would have been apparent, the space which had been most probably, according to the practice at the conclusion of other years, occupied by the minister's signature, was filled up thus, "*finis istius anni,*" being the only instance of such a remark in the register. Lord Eldon observed:

" I cannot go the length of supposing, that the  
 " person making this entry, if inclined to have com-  
 " mitted a forgery, would have selected that particular  
 " year for his purpose, wherein forgery would be the  
 " more easy of detection, as the words ' *finis istius*  
 " *anni,*' before which this entry appears to be crowded  
 " in, do not occur at the end of any other year besides  
 " that."

His lordship did not, however, advert to the circumstance that those words are also a manifest modern insertion, to be accounted for, it is conceived, only in the manner here suggested.\*

" But," added lord Eldon, " if there could be any-  
 " thing doubtful in this entry taken by itself, it is au-  
 " thenticated by the duplicate from the archbishop's  
 " registry, which duplicate is liable to no similar obser-  
 " vation. And as to the objection to this last instru-

\* See further observations on the Maidstone entry in the Appendix, n. VIII.



“ ment, taken by a learned lord (Rosslyn), that no  
“ register or duplicate should be evidence unless  
“ signed by the minister and churchwarden, the exact  
“ mode prescribed by the canon ; I am afraid that if  
“ your lordships were to determine in conformity  
“ with this opinion, it would not be easy to make out  
“ any pedigree or title to property whatever grounded  
“ upon the authority of such records ; for I much  
“ doubt whether you would find a single one kept in  
“ conformity to that canon.”

An opportunity has not been had of inspecting the Maidstone duplicate or transcript ; but, if that document be not, as is to be inferred from lord Eldon's reply to lord Rosslyn's observation, signed by the minister and churchwarden according to the injunction of the canon, its genuineness would be impeachable in the strongest degree solely upon that omission, whatever may be its other defects ; for, whatever may be his lordship's opinion on the point, founded upon the general neglect and carelessness with which parochial records have been kept, the experience of a long professional life, during which a very great number of transcripts or duplicates of registers have been inspected, warrants the assertion that instances of such omissions will be rarely, if ever, found in any diocesan registry in the kingdom : and, in truth, from the very object of the document, no unsigned or un-

certified paper of that description could be officially received at the annual visitation.

The Maidstone duplicate was not produced by Mr. Cullen to the committee until the 10th of April 1794,\* on the renewal of the proceedings, after a suspense of three years, during which that and other documents were *discovered*. An essay was made, in 1803,† to prove that it had been brought up *for production* in 1791; but there was a complete failure of proof of that fact, which was indeed of highly improbable occurrence, as the proceedings had closed on the 18th of February in that year, with the request of attorney-general Macdonald, that time might be allowed to him to have an actual inspection of the original registers; and it was not until after the adjournment on that day that any original parochial records were brought up to town for that purpose. Mr. attorney-general Perceval, when speaking of this document in 1803, observed that it had the appearance of an artificial antiquity which other duplicates, produced from the same custody, had not, and, seemingly, from damp and the softening and rotting of the paper in consequence. From a return to an inquiry recently made at the registrar's office, Canterbury, it appears that the Maidstone duplicate,

\* P. 14.

† P. 101.

if it exists, is not now in the proper place of custody.\*

To continue:—Assuming, for a moment, the entry in the Maidstone register to be a genuine record, and the duplicate from the Canterbury office an equally authentic instrument, and that a Robert Bridges had, in 1603, a son and daughter baptized, of the names of Edward and Anne, no evidence whatever had been adduced, down to the close of the hearing before the committee on the 18th of February 1791, (when the counsel for the claimant informed their lordships that they had no further evidence to offer,) to identify Edward Bridge, or Bridges, the claimant's ancestor, with the infant Edward so stated to have been baptized. Nor had any authority whatever been produced to

\* On the 12th August 1803, after the Chandos case had been disposed of, an order of the house of lords was made, upon the usual petition, to deliver all documents which had been produced pending the claim, and specifically *the duplicates* from the archbishop's office at Canterbury, to the several persons who produced the same, or to the proper officers entitled to the custody thereof (lords' journals, XLIV, 399<sup>b</sup>); but it would seem that *all* had not been re-delivered which had been taken out of the office; for the registrar, on 21st March 1808, presented another petition, which was ordered to lie on the table (L. J. XLVI. 503). On 31st January 1809, upon a renewal of the application, the house ordered the several documents to be delivered as desired (L. J. XLVII. 21<sup>b</sup>): It is, however, rather extraordinary that, whilst the duplicate of the register of Owre, which was in vain inquired for, in 1803, by the committee, in order to a re-inspection of it, should be in the proper depository, that of Maidstone has disappeared.

warrant the application of the two extracts from the Maidstone register (the baptisms in 1603 of children of Robert Brydges, esquire, and the burial of Robert Brydges, esquire, in 1636) to Robert Bridges the son of Anthony: for the mere conjecture that he removed to Maidstone on account of his sister's marriage with Sir John Astley, who resided there, could not lead the decision of a cause of such magnitude. *Whom* and *when* did Robert marry? *At what time* did he become domiciliated at Maidstone, so as to become the lawful parent of the children in question? And was Edward his *only* or *eldest* son?—are problems which have been proposed in vain for solution. Many offices of record for marriage licences and numerous parish registers have been searched, in the hope of discovering the exact date of Sir John Astley's marriage with Katherine Bridges, the daughter of Anthony, and sister of Robert. If that event should have happened in or after 1603, the postulate that lady Astley's brother settled with his family at Maidstone would at once be annihilated; and it could be scarcely hazarded if even the marriage should have taken place two or three years earlier; because so immediate an attraction by the fortunate sister and consequent domestication could hardly be contemplated as probable. At the date of the

will of John Astley, esquire, the knight's father, 25 January 1592, John, the son, was unmarried, and so described in that instrument. The testator died 1st August 1596, and the inquisitio post mortem was taken at Maidstone on 15 September 1597, when, according to the finding of the jury, John, the heir, was twenty-five years old. On the entrance of King James the First into London at his accession, the cavalcade halted at the Charter-house, and there the king, on the 11th of May 1603, knighted a number of gentlemen, amongst whom was our John Astley (or Ashley, as the name was frequently written), then one of the band of gentlemen pensioners. A presumption may be raised, though it may not be very strong, that he was then still unmarried, upon the following grounds: he had a daughter Katherine (probably the first-born daughter, being named after her mother,) baptized at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on the 10th of December 1609, and a son Thomas, (named after Sir John's grandfather, Thomas Astley, esq. of Melton Constable,) baptized in the same parish 2nd July 1611; and Thomas being there buried on the 22nd July in the following year, with the title of esquire, due to him as the eldest son of a knight, it may be presumed that he was the eldest-born son. Sir John and lady Astley had afterwards two other sons,

John and Francis ; the former, according to his age at the time of the visitation of Kent, was born in or about 1613, and the latter was, in 1619, still an infant.\* Considering these dates, it is very probable that the marriage took place not many years before the birth of the daughter Katherine in 1609: the settlement, therefore, of Robert Bridges at Maidstone so early as 1603 is rendered, upon this ground also, extremely doubtful. •

Nor is there (setting aside the documents, the genuineness of which will be presently considered) any circumstance to support the conjecture that the Robert Bridges, buried at Maidstone in 1636, was Robert the brother of lady Astley. The person employed on behalf of the claimant to search the Maidstone register for other entries of the name of Bridges, deposed that it contained only, besides those produced in the cause, the name of Alexander Bridges, christened in 1543.† This entry would show that there had been at least one family of the name resident in the parish at an early date ; but, had the search been more careful, other entries would have been found ; for the register being before the committee in 1802, the following entries were discovered, upon a casual examination of it, amongst the marriages :‡

\* See Appendix, n XI.

† P. 8.

‡ P. 8.

“ 1603, May 30, William Brydges to Thomasin  
“ Michell.”

“ 1608, May 30, Henrië Brydage and Alice  
“ Hearneden.”

Here were then contemporaries of the name, to whom Mrs. Brydges, buried in 1616, and Robert Brydges buried in 1636, may be presumed to have been allied, in the absence of authentic proof of their connexion with the Chandos family.

There was not any family of Bridges, with pretensions to the rank of gentry, at Maidstone at the visitation of the heralds in 1619. Sir John Astley entered and subscribed his own pedigree on that occasion ;\* and if his brother-in-law, Robert Bridges, had been then resident in the town or vicinity, (which we must assume, for the claimant has not shown him to have been resident elsewhere between 1603 and 1636,) he would unquestionably have been summoned by the heralds at the head of six other families,† of far inferior pretensions in point of rank, who entered their pedigrees, and five of whom justified their arms at the same visitation. Robert, according to the claimant's case, had then at least two children living, of the age of sixteen ; and the circumstance that the alleged son had a

\* Appendix, n. XI. •

† Viz. Horsepoole, Haule, Gull, Fisher, Davy, and Lloyd. *Coll: Armor: C 16.*

not very remote chance of succeeding to the family dignity, would have proved a powerful incitement to him to record his birth and connexions. The failure to take that step, (considering also the peculiar care with which Maidstone appears to have been visited by the heralds in 1619,) affords of itself strong negative evidence against the supposed domiciliation of Robert, and the connexion of Edward with the noble house.

But the name of *Bridges*, as well as that of *Bridge*, both which spellings seem to have been used as chance directed, was extremely common all over Kent long before the marriage of Katherine Bridges with Sir John Astley. In and about Canterbury a much more indefinite epithet than *common* must be used to express the frequency of its occurrence.\*

Edward Bridges, or Bridge, the claimant's ancestor, so nearly connected, according to the allegations, with the baronial house, removed, many years

\* Edward was a name entirely unknown as a christian name in the Chandos family; but Edwards and Roberts are constantly found in the families of Bridges, which abound in the neighbourhood of Canterbury. A William Bridges of St. Mildred's, Canterbury, made his will in 1603, and gave legacies to his kinsmen, Edward Bridge and Robert Bridge. Edward, the son of Harry Bridges, was baptized at St. Mary's, Canterbury, 27th April 1573. Margaret, daughter of Robert Bridges, baptized there 11th April 1590. John, son of Robert Bridges, 1st January 1598. Katherine, daughter of Robert Bridges, 20th July 1600. Edward, son of Robert Bridges, 10th October 1602.



before the death of Robert the *esquire*, his presumed father, without any assigned reason, from the parental roof at Maidstone, and the powerful protection of the Astleys, and commenced *yeoman* at Ospringe; where, according to the parish register, he found several persons of his own name already established. The first act known of him, after this supposed excursion, was his marriage, by the name of Edward *Bridge*, in the adjoining parish of Feversham, in 1627. In the original case, his wife is described as the "daughter and heir" of John Sharpe, of Feversham. It is true, the lady was, in heraldic language, an heiress: her father left no male issue; and she certainly inherited real property from him. But he proves to have been a *maltster*, and to have died in 1615, leaving Katherine, his only child, then in her infancy; for she was baptized at Feversham 5th January 1611. It is highly probable, from the general practice appearing, by the records, to have obtained at that time in the neighbourhood, that the marriage

Robert, son of Edward Bridges, 14th November 1616. There was an Edward Bridges living in the parish of All Saints, Canterbury, from 1605, when the baptism of a daughter appears in the register, to 1617, when his burial occurs. And, contemporary with him in the same parish, was Henry Bridges, of whom, and his family, there are several notices in the register, which also contains the burial of a Robert Bridges, 17th May 1631; and a Robert *Bridgges* was, on the same day, buried at St. Andrew's, in the city.

took place *by licence*; and, in this case, there would, in all likelihood, have been no deviation from the custom, since Katherine Sharpe, as a small heiress, was a person of some consequence in her parish, and being, moreover, not older than seventeen, the consent of her mother, testamentary guardian, or next friend, would have been indispensable. Assuming that Edward was, as alleged, born in 1603, he was then twenty-four; but, upon another very strong conjecture, that the true date of his baptism was the 5th of October 1606,\* he probably wanted a few months to complete his age. The consent, therefore, of his father would have been necessary; and John of Harbledown, presumed to have been his father, did appear to give his consent to the marriage of his son Thomas in 1635, and to that of his daughter Mary with Thomas Violet, in 1639; though each of them is stated to have been twenty-two years old at the time. There was, therefore, great probability that Edward would also be married by licence, according to the prevailing custom of that part of Kent at the period in question; and that the name and description of the father would appear in the entry of the grant. The marriage was solemnized at Feversham on the 18th of June 1627; and, upon referring to

\* See the Harbledown pedigree, III. in Appendix.

the register of licences in the office at Canterbury for that year, it was found that *a leaf had been torn out, which must have comprehended the entries of licences issued from the ninth to the seventeenth of that month*, the day preceding the nuptials at Feversham. It was also beyond doubt that the register had contained a list or index at the end, as the two preceding and all the following volumes of the series have ; but, to defeat all inquiry for the entries on the missing leaf, the leaf which unquestionably contained the usual references *has been also abstracted.*\*

Edward Bridges is next found a party to three deeds in 1634,-5,† by the description of “ Edward Bridges of the town of Feversham, yeoman,” to one of which he subscribes himself “ *Ed. Bridge.*”

Can the supposition be entertained for a moment, that, born the son and heir-apparent of a gentleman of the rank of Robert Bridges, who was at the date of these deeds living, according to the claimant's case, at Maidstone, within twenty miles of Feversham, the grandson of a peer of the realm, in the limitation of that dignity, and allied in blood to families of the first distinction,‡ he would, espe-

\* The licence bond was inquired for ; but it is understood that it was not the practice, at that date, at Canterbury, to file similar bonds, the *jurat* being entered in the margin of the register.

† P. 18.

‡ See Appendix, n. XIX.

cially in that age, when the marks of rank were more particularly attended to, have described himself "*yeoman*," or have allowed that description to be given him by others, in deeds which were to pass his signature?—and this, too, in the lifetime not only of his supposed father, but of his uncle and aunt, owners and inhabitants of "the palace" at Maidstone?

Again, it is perfectly consistent with the ordinary course of social transactions, that a Feversham yeoman should bind his son, the issue of his marriage with a maltster's daughter, apprentice to a grocer at Canterbury; but nothing can be further from probability than that such an act should be performed by an individual in the situation of Edward Bridges, if his descent and connexions had been as alleged. The last act on record of this person's life (for no will of him has been discovered) is his personal appearance, on the 9th of October 1662, accompanied by one Simon Millen, a maltster of Charing, before a surrogate at Canterbury, in order to testify his consent to the marriage of his daughter Mary (born in 1637) with the said Simon. The description of the daughter in the licence\* is worthy of notice; as it appears

\* Appendix, n. XXI.

that she was not resident with her father, but in the same village as her intended husband! \*

We now proceed to the consideration of the Astley letters of administration, of which the time and circumstances of discovery have been already alluded to, and which are, abstractedly, of sufficient importance to produce a conviction that, upon the death of lady Astley in 1648, *all issue whatever* from Anthony Bridges, the third son of the first lord Chandos, was extinguished.

Katherine lady Astley, the sister of Robert Bridges, and daughter of Anthony, died in her widowhood, without issue, at Maidstone, in January 1647-8, intestate and in possession of considerable personal property, under the will of Sir John Astley. Her father and mother and her brother, Robert Bridges, being dead, and her sister Elizabeth Braine† being also dead and without issue, and it not being known that she had any other brother or sister, her next of kin, the persons legally entitled to that property, and to a grant of letters of admi-

\* Her description is "Mary Bridges, of the parish of Charing aforesaid, virgin, aged twenty-two years, or thereabouts, the daughter of Edward Bridges, of Feversham, in the diocese of Canterbury."

† See Pedigree of Braine, in Appendix, n. XX., by which it appears that Elizabeth Braine died without issue many years before lady Astley.

nistration of her effects, would have been the issue, if any, of her brother Robert.

Edward Bridges, therefore, the claimant's ancestor, if, according to his case, son to that brother Robert (which Robert, the case supposes, died in 1636) would, standing in that degree of consanguinity to the deceased, have been entitled, solely or in common with any brother or sister of his own, to the property of his aunt.

Instead, however, of obtaining that property, or making any effort to assert his right to it, the possession of it was contested, in the prerogative court in Doctors' Commons, by two persons claiming to be next of kin to the deceased, viz. FRANCES, COUNTESS DOWAGER OF EXETER, daughter of William lord Chandos, who had been cousin-german to the deceased, *i. e.* son of Edmund second lord Chandos, the eldest brother of Anthony, father to the deceased—and JOHN BRIDGES, of Cirencester in Gloucestershire, her cousin-german, being son and heir of Richard Bridges, the youngest brother of the said Anthony.\*

The suit commenced on the 13th May 1648, about four months after the decease of lady Astley, and was continued until the 2nd December following, when a decree passed in favour of John Bridges

\* See Pedigree I., in Appendix.

the cousin-german ; and a commission to administer was issued to him, in conformity thereto, on the 18th of the month ensuing.\*

During these proceedings, Edward Bridges of Feversham, represented by the claimant to have been the brother's son, (the nearest degree of kindred known in the law for the distribution of the effects of intestates, after the immediate issue of the body, and the father, mother, brothers, and sisters of the deceased,) took no step to obtain his supposed right, though living at a very little distance from the place of his alleged aunt's death. We shall notice three different arguments, used to counteract the effect of this piece of evidence, which was felt to be destructive of the claim.

1. That Edward died *before* 1648 ; that his son John stood in a degree of consanguinity equally remote with John Bridges of Cirencester ; that it was at the option of the Ordinary to choose between them ; and that John, the son of Edward, being a minor, the grant was issued to John Bridges the cousin-german, he being of full age.

This argument proceeds upon two averments, both groundless—the death of Edward before 1648, and the status of John, his son, in reference to his

\* Appendix, n. IX.

claim to the property of lady Astley, supposing his father Edward to have been her nephew.

No proof was offered to the committee, of the time of the death of Edward Bridges of Feversham, although Mr. Egerton Brydges, as we have seen in his instructions to Mr. Townsend, had stated, in an early stage of the inquiry, that that individual had been (as he no doubt was) buried at Feversham on the 13th October 1665. When, however, the address is recollected, with which every adverse point was met and parried, no surprise will be excited, that when all the other extracts from the Feversham register were given in evidence on the 17th February 1791, the proof of the burial of Edward in 1665 should have been artfully suppressed; because the ingenious manager of the case felt, at that time, too keenly the effect of the letters of administration upon it. During the interval between 1791 and 1794, which was anxiously occupied in the discovery of new evidence to prop his falling and otherwise wholly untenable case, it appears to have been determined to get rid of Edward Bridges, by showing that he had died in his aunt's lifetime: and, accordingly, as soon as the scheme was matured, and the committee had resumed its sittings, in 1794, the copy of an entry was produced, from the parish register of St. George's, Canterbury, of the following burial:—



“ Edward Bridges, gent. buried August  
“ 28th 1646.”\*

But, it being soon remembered that Mr. Egerton Brydges had himself furnished Mr. Townsend with direct evidence that his ancestor Edward had been alive in 1662, and personally consenting to his daughter's marriage with Simon Millen, the entry of 1646 could not be contended to apply to him.

The argument would, nevertheless, not have availed him under any circumstances; because administration is, according to law and the rule and practice of the ecclesiastical court, granted to the great-nephew in preference to the cousin-german; and the minority of such great-nephew would have been no bar to his claim by his guardian or next friend.

2. It was next asserted that the time when the suit was in progress in London, from May 1648 to January 1648-9, was one not only of general national confusion, but that a violent insurrection had broken out in the county of Kent, which cut off all communication between the metropolis and the eastern parts of that county.

\* P. 13. It may scarcely be necessary to remark on the somewhat suspicious appearance of this entry in the register of St. George's; because, supposing it even genuine, it may have recorded the burial of one of the very many persons of the name resident at Canterbury about that period; and because, moreover, the inference sought to be drawn from it, was no sooner raised than abandoned.

Lord Eldon, in his speech already referred to, observes on this evidence—

“ The letters of administration, which, on the death  
 “ of lady Astley in 1648, were granted to John  
 “ Bridges, of Cirencester, her first cousin, is a matter  
 “ on which I have thought with more anxiety than on  
 “ any subject on which it ever was my duty to inquire.  
 “ How it happened that Edward Bridges, if lady  
 “ Astley’s nephew, did not put in his claim to the  
 “ administration of her effects ; or how, if Edward  
 “ omitted so to do, *Mrs. Best* also declined, *I own I*  
 “ *cannot account*. It has been said Mrs. Best might  
 “ be dead : she might ; but her brother Edward was  
 “ certainly living in 1662. The turbulence of the  
 “ times, and the Kentish insurrection, which broke  
 “ out in the very month of lady Astley’s decease, and  
 “ cut off all communication with London, have been  
 “ assigned as a probable cause. But, my lords, this  
 “ administration was not uncontested. It was dis-  
 “ puted by the countess of Exeter, who was one de-  
 “ gree further removed from lady Astley than John  
 “ Bridges ; and, as the contest was carried on for  
 “ some months, it has been asked, therefore, why  
 “ Edward, if prevented at the moment by the insur-  
 “ rection, did not afterwards come forward, while the  
 “ suit was yet pending, or, even after it was ended,  
 “ apply to have those letters cancelled, if wrongly  
 “ granted ? It has been suggested that he might  
 “ have rendered himself obnoxious to the reigning  
 “ powers, and been *compelled to continue abroad during*

“ *the whole remainder of the usurpation. It is for  
 “ your lordships to decide whether this is sufficiently  
 “ probable to counteract the inferences arising from so  
 “ extraordinary a non-claim.”*

Unfortunately for the effect of this argument, the assertion, that *all* communication was cut off between London and the eastern parts of Kent, on account of the insurrection, is entirely unfounded ; for it appears, by the records of the prerogative office, London, that letters of administration were granted in that year, and during the months in question, of the effects of intestates who had died at Dover, Deal, the Isle of Thanet, and all the other eastern parts of Kent, just as they had been the year before, and as they were the year after. But admitting, however improbable it may be, that Edward really did not hear of that event in time to put in his claim along with lady Exeter and John Bridges, of Cirencester ; it is impossible to suppose that he could continue ignorant of it during the remaining seventeen years of his life ; and it would never have been too late for him to have procured a reversal of the decree, by showing that it had been obtained under false pretences : and, if we should admit lord Eldon’s suggestion, that he might have been obliged from political motives to absent himself, (though it would be necessary first to show, *aliunde*, that so humble an individual had

been in such peril,) we know that he was at his own quiet town of Feversham after the restoration, and that there is not the most distant reason to suppose that he ever quitted it until his removal by death in 1665.

We shall give the third argument in lord Eldon's reported words—

“ This piece of evidence [*i. e.* the letters of administration] has, in my opinion, been pressed too far against the claimant's case. This claim to lady Astley's effects by John Bridges, has been set up as destructive of the existence of any reputation that there remained any descendants of Anthony Bridges, lady Astley's father. Now, my lords, there are other parts in this suit which furnish facts sufficient to show decisively the fallacy of such an inference. Who was the person who contested this suit with John Bridges of Cirencester? The countess of Exeter, the granddaughter of Edmund second lord Chandos, who was eldest brother to Anthony, and to Richard the father of the said John. If the claim of John was destructive of the existence of a reputation that there was in being any grandchild of Anthony, the claim of the countess of Exeter was equally destructive of the existence of the reputation that there was in being a child of Richard. Yet, that John, the son of Richard, was then living, was not only established by himself in this suit, but it is not easy to imagine the fact un-

“ known to lady Exeter, for he continued to reside in  
“ that neighbourhood, where all his family had been  
“ known for ages, and whence living witnesses of his  
“ descent had been taken ; yet, in defiance of all this,  
“ did the countess of Exeter venture to contest the  
“ matter for months with him, denying his alliance,  
“ and setting up her own more remote affinity. I  
“ must contend, therefore, my lords, that the evidence  
“ of reputation can be little, if at all, affected by  
“ this suit. Under these circumstances, it is not the  
“ claim of John, *but the non-claim of Edward*, which  
“ remains unaccountable ; but, whether your lord-  
“ ships can admit such a circumstance of omission to  
“ prove that the person to whom such letters of ad-  
“ ministration were granted in this case, was really  
“ the next of kin to lady Astley, in opposition to all  
“ the evidence produced for the claimant, is for your  
“ lordships’ wisdom to decide. It is certainly to be  
“ remarked that Edward and Anne Bridges came  
“ from Maidstone, and resided in the same county,  
“ not a vast many miles from it ; and, if they were  
“ still resident in that neighbourhood when lady  
“ Astley died, their neglect to claim administration to  
“ her effects, will appear to be *most extraordinary* :  
“ and yet I would ask your lordships, is it possible  
“ that this circumstance, or the declarations made by  
“ two interested individuals, shall be sufficient to  
“ overthrow what seems so strongly established, and  
“ such a mass of concurring testimony. As to the  
“ assertions contained in this suit, it is observable

“ that the countess of Exeter confidently alleges that  
“ John Bridges, of Cirencester, was no relation at all,  
“ and yet we have had it distinctly proved that John  
“ was nearer than herself. What share of weight  
“ then your lordships can allow to her assertion, I am  
“ yet at a loss to learn ?”

It appears to us, with all respect and deference to such high authority, that the above argument possesses little strength. Allegations, made on behalf of parties in such and similar suits, are known to be only so long of force as they are supported by facts ; and the judge decrees after considering the relative and legal weight of those facts. It is in the very nature of the proceedings that one party should aver and the other deny ; but such averment and such denial still leave the point at issue to be established by direct proof, and, failing that, by evidence of reputation. To reason upon allegations so made, as affording evidence of reputation one way or the other, or as destroying evidence of reputation already existing, would be as inconsistent as to deny the intestacy of lady Astley ; because the proctor for the countess, towards the close of the suit, and when he felt the ground sinking under him, deserted the cause of his original client, and, in the name of a new suitor, alleged that the deceased had made a will and bequeathed her goods to one Alexander ; which

pretended will he failed to produce, although terms were from time to time assigned to him for the production.

We learn from the brief minutes of the proceedings, preserved in the Act-books, that witnesses were examined on both sides; and if those depositions could be recovered, they would, doubtless, be found to contain *proof of the extinction of all issue from Anthony*, which it was the object of both the contending parties to establish, and which they would have been called upon to substantiate *in limine*, and before their own respective claims could come to be considered by the Ordinary. These depositions have been searched for with care; but they are said not to be extant:\* and there appear to be at present no means of obtaining that full satisfaction on the subject, which cannot but be desired, as most probably *every* point in this interesting case would thereby be set at complete rest for ever. One thing, however, is certain, that if the claimant had derived his descent through Henry or Richard, the younger brothers of Anthony, the evidence of the Astley letters of administration would have been received as sufficient proof that there could not be any heir male

\* The earliest of the series of volumes of depositions in the prerogative court, which have been preserved, commences in 1656.

of the body of Anthony to stand in the way of his claim. Those letters were, therefore, very properly considered by the lords as of equal force in the present case, and to be, in connexion with other weighty points, decisive against the claim.

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The evident impolicy of pressing the lords to a decision, in 1791, at the conclusion of the barren case, which up to that date had been submitted to them, suggested, as the only alternative to the abandonment of the claim, the necessity of producing some evidence, direct or circumstantial, by which the identity and supposed filiation of Edward Bridges might be established, and the dreaded effect of the Astley letters of administration, when they should emerge from their latency, counter-balanced.

After a suspension of three years, from February 1791 to April 1794, the grand object was at length presumed to be attainable by the production of three pieces of evidence, upon the authenticity of which the claimant's case, after they had been produced, almost exclusively rested.

Those documents were, first, the duplicate of the parish register of Owre, a small village adjoining Feversham, for the year 1640-1;\* second, a

\* Appendix, n. VII.



letter of John Knatchbull to Anne Best, dated 7th June 1641;\* and, third, a receipt from William Best, granted to his "brother, Mr. Edward Bridges," 3rd April 1643.† The first was brought from the registrar's office, Canterbury; the two others from the private muniments of the claimant.

Before, however, we advert to the circumstances attending the discovery and production of each, and which affected materially their credibility, it may be proper to state briefly the conclusions which were designed to be drawn from their contents.

Sir John Astley had in his will, in 1639, bequeathed a legacy to Anne Bridges, "by what name soever she be called, who was niece to his wife dame Katherine," and also alluded to a certain chamber in the palace at Maidstone, in which this niece had formerly lain. These circumstances had formed the groundwork of the claimant's case; but, down to the close of the hearings in 1791, he had only so far availed himself of them as to *assume* that the said Anne Bridges was daughter to Robert, the brother of lady Astley, that she had a brother Edward, and that they were both baptized at Maidstone on the same day in 1603: but the claimant had not attempted, and certainly possessed no evidence to prove that Edward, so baptized, was his

\* P. 21.

† P. 16.

ancestor Edward of Feversham; on the contrary, every presumption, arising from the last-mentioned Edward's situation in life and immediate connexions, was strongly opposed to the inference.

1. By the Owre duplicate, however, he was enabled to assume, and, if that document were authentic, to prove, that "Anne Bridges, of Maidstone," inferred by such description to have been the same Anne who had been, within a few months previously, named in Sir John Astley's will, was married on the 1st May 1640, at Owre, to William Best, gent. and that the issue of that marriage was a son, baptized on the 14th March following, by the name of "Ashley," as the surname of Sir John had been sometimes written.

2. The identity of Anne was confirmed by a letter written 7th June 1641, to Anne Best, shortly after the alleged baptism of Ashley Best, by one John Knatchbull, who calls Anne his cousin: which letter purports that the writer had been to "the Palace," in company with his cousin Gibbons, in order to endeavour to reconcile their aunt, lady Astley, to Mrs. Best *and her brother*; but that my lady had spoken in great wrath of their imprudence and ungrateful behaviour, and of some wicked plan they had formed to deceive her, who had been always a mother to them, and at a time when their

poor father had scarce where to lay his head; and that she had pronounced the christening of the child by Sir John's name to be a paltry trick to win her favour.

3. The receipt, dated 3rd April 1643, purporting to be for £40, received by William Best of his brother, Mr. Edward Bridges, fixed the name of the brother alluded to in the letter to have been "Edward:" and the letter and receipt having been found amongst the family papers of the claimant, no doubt was expected to remain, after admission of these documents, of the identity of the several parties therein mentioned.

Most assuredly, if the genuineness of these three documents were unimpeachable, they would, even without the aid of the Maidstone register, have made out the proposition that Anne Bridges, niece to lady Astley, had a brother Edward, who would be thereby inferred to have been grandson to Anthony; and the receipt of 1643, in particular, in the custody of the descendant and heir of Edward, of Feversham, would have afforded a strong presumption of the identity of such ancestor with the Edward in question.

But, independently of the unsatisfactory appearance of the paper and writing, a considerable degree of suspicion attached also, *prima facie*, to

these several instruments, from the time and manner of their discovery and production, and, above all, from the coincident and overwhelming nature of the testimony which they offered. What, in truth, could have been more remarkable than that, in an advanced stage of the proceedings, and when it had become necessary to suspend them from an obvious insufficiency of proof to carry the object, evidence so admirably fitting and dovetailed, so exactly supplying all that had been wanting, should at once have been brought to light? Or what more incredible than that, in the examination of the papers of the family, during ten years anxiously devoted to the investigation, documents of such vital importance to the case, as the Best receipt and the Knatchbull letter, which would have been handed down from father to son, as objects of curiosity and interest, in a family represented as by no means neglectful in treasuring up armorial and traditional indications of former greatness, should have entirely escaped the great industry and indefatigable research of the brother of the claimant?

That reflections of this nature would be made by those whose province it was to pronounce on the authenticity of these papers, was naturally anticipated by Mr. Egerton Brydges; and must have in-

duced him, after having, as he deposed, turned over "one by one" the contents of the box from which he had culled the Best receipt, to close again the precious depository, and reserve the Knatchbull letter for the striking effect of an accidental discovery of it by their lordships at the table of the house.\*

Nor will that letter support the test of an inquiry into its internal evidence. In the first place, by whom was it written? Mr. Erskine informed the committee that the indicter of it was John Knatchbull, the legatee in Sir John Astley's will; but that person, who is therein described as godson to the testator, was his great-nephew, and at the date of the letter but *five years old*: and upon an attentive examination of the pedigree of that ancient Kentish family,† it may safely be averred that there was no "John Knatchbull" belonging to it in 1641, to whom the letter could be ascribed. Again: what could have prompted a kinsman of Sir John, and not of his wife, to interest himself so strongly in behalf of her exiled relations? What became of William and Anne Best, and their alleged child Ashley; and under what circumstances had this letter remained in the custody of Edward's descendants?—

\* Pp. 17 and 21.

† See Knatchbull Pedigree, IV. at the end of the volume.

Lastly, the poverty, nay, absolute destitution, of the supposed father of Edward and Anne, who, according to the letter, "had scarce where to lay his head," is asserted upon the original scheme of accounting, in that way, for his removal out of Gloucestershire in quest of protection and preferment from his sister's wealthy husband. And, in the course of the proceedings, the counsel for the claim frequently insinuated that Anthony Bridges had been very slenderly provided for by his father, and that Robert had inherited little or nothing from him. The insinuation seems to be entirely unfounded. The will of the first lord Chandos shows that the condition of Anthony was in this respect not inferior to that of the younger children of the nobility in general at that period. In addition to a small rent-charge, secured upon lands in Wilts, he had some specific legacies; and, jointly with his brother Richard, the residue of all his father's "farms, debts, goods, and chattels, moveable and immoveable." It has already been stated that he had the presentation to the rectory of Meysey Hampton; and the marriages of his daughters into families of such great respectability as Astley and Braine, afford, surely, no evidence of his having lived in indigence.

Let us now place these documents at the side of

others of a widely different character in regard to authenticity.

Against the description given of Anne Bridges, as "of Maidstone," in the pretended Owre transcript of 1st May 1640, we have the inference deducible from the will of Sir John Astley, dated four months previously, that she was then no longer an inmate of "the Palace," or resident at Maidstone; and, by the precaution taken to describe her "*by what name soever she be called,*" and the injunction to the executor to obtain very good and satisfactory proof, on discharging the legacies, that he or she applying should be "*the true and undoubted party*" intended; it is also presumable that Anne Bridges had been unfortunate in some matrimonial connexion, not definitely known to or not approved by her family; or that circumstances had led her to relinquish in society the name which she might have legally acquired, and to pass by her maiden name.

Be that as it may, there can exist no reasonable doubt that Anne Bridges, the late inmate of the Palace at Maidstone, never married a person of the name of Best, or had a child born of such marriage, to whom the name of Ashley, or Astley, was given in baptism—circumstances affirmed by the documents so produced by the claimant; but that she was so-

journing, in the same year, a few months after the pretended birth of that child, and the date of the Knatchbull letter, under her maiden name, in the parish of St. Bride, London, where she made her will, on the 12th of October 1641; in which, giving to herself, (with a view in all probability to constitute her will a legal act,) the names and description\* of “Ann Jackson, alias Bridges, of London, widow,” she bequeaths, as the first legacy therein, ten pounds *to her aunt the lady Astley*, for mourning, and a like sum *to the poor of Maidstone*, and other parishes in Kent. These bequests would alone have sufficed to identify her as the person so very recently provided for by Sir John Astley as his wife’s niece; but the fact is further confirmed by her seal to the original will, which bears the arms of Bridges, with the *mullet* for difference; † plainly and beyond all doubt showing that she was of the line of Anthony Bridges. It is to be remarked that this instrument was not produced from *private* custody, but from the original public records of the prerogative court in Doctors’ Commons; and that the

\* It was suggested, on behalf of the crown, from considering the description given of herself in her will, that she might have been privately married to the “*Mr. James Jackson*,” who was buried at Maidstone, on 3rd December 1639, one month before the date of Sir John Astley’s will; and that, if she had been married to that individual, his death just happening, would account for the absence of provision in the will for securing the large legacy of 1000*l.* to her own use.

† Appendix, P. XV.



official register of the same period contains the record of it in its proper place. In the course of the researches made in aid of the case for the crown, this will had been, at the outset, overlooked; no clue whatever existing to the name of *Jackson*, as connected with that of *Bridges*: and it might not have been discovered, pending the claim, but for the following circumstances.

Amongst the manuscripts of the private collection of the late Sir Isaac Heard, Garter, was a herald-painter's work-book, being a kind of journal, in which a person of that profession had noted the orders for funeral escocheons which he had from time to time received. It appeared, in the course of the entries so made, that this person had been employed to prepare escocheons for the funeral of Sir John Astley,\* about eighteen months before he received a similar order for the funeral of "Mrs. Bridges," whom, according to his memorandum,† he understood to be the "daughter of Captain Bridges, third brother of the lord Chandos." The mistake in having omitted a generation, when describing the father of the deceased as *the third brother*, instead of calling him *the son of the third brother*, is unimportant. The herald-painter could not be aware of

\* Appendix, p. xi.

† *Ibid.* p. xii.

the precise state of the pedigree; and the connexion of the deceased with the Chandos family was probably merely noted in order to indicate that the corpse was to be deposited in the Chandos vault, and to remind him of the *mullet* to be inserted as the filial difference in the escocheons; of which he accordingly entered a sketch in his day-book.\*

The accidental discovery of this entry, induced Sir Isaac Heard to make a more general search, about the date given by the herald-painter, for any will or administration of the deceased; and, not finding any reference to it in the calendar of the prerogative office under *Bridges*, he inspected, leaf by leaf, the register containing copies of wills proved in the year 1641; when this will of Ann Jackson, alias Bridges, was discovered; and the original found in the bundle of wills for that year. The indorsement on the original, "*Paroch. s<sup>ca</sup> Bridgettæ,*" pointed to the parish in which the testatrix had died; and there it appeared, by a churchwarden's book, that, in November 1641, thirteen shillings and fourpence had been paid for the bell tolled at the burial of "Ann Bridges, a stranger." †

This entry was corroborated by the further information contained in the herald-painter's memo-

\* Appendix, p. xii.

† P. 36.

randum, viz., that the funeral sermon had been preached at St. Bride's on the 9th of November, (three days after the probate of the will,) and the corpse carried on the same night for interment at St. Faith's under St. Paul's.

The book, from which this important information was derived, not being an official record, could not be received in evidence at the bar of the house; but who can doubt for an instant its authentic character, confirmed as it is by the will, the seal, and the entry at St. Bride's?

And, to place this string of concurrent circumstances beyond question, we have only to advert to the singular spot selected for the interment. It appears, by Dugdale's history of St. Paul's Cathedral,\* that, at the east end of the undercroft, lay the remains of Elizabeth, the first lady Chandos, great-grandmother of Ann Bridges; and also those of her cousins-german, John and Francis Astley, children of lady Astley, one of whom had been there buried in 1624, the other so recently as 1636.†

An objection was taken to the will and to the

\* See an extract of the passages in the Appendix, p. xii and xiii.

† The dates of the deaths of John and Francis Astley are not given in the inscription to their memory; but John, born in 1613, is supposed to have been the individual therein stated to have died at the age of *eleven*, and Francis, baptized at Maidstone, 6th November 1618, the person who was *eighteen* at his death. The register of St. Faith's, before 1645, is unfortunately lost.

entry at St. Bride's, as not containing proof of the identity of the person to whom they refer, with Ann Bridges of Maidstone; and it is surprising that it should have received, in any degree, the sanction of the strong legal mind of lord Eldon. His lordship seemed to concur in what had been urged on behalf of the claimant—

“ That the name of Bridges, used by the testatrix,  
“ was demonstrably a name obtained by marriage;  
“ that this must be so taken, because no usage to  
“ the contrary in England can be produced; and  
“ that, if a doubt could be entertained on this point,  
“ in this instance, the entry of her burial by the name  
“ of Bridges, only would put it out of all question  
“ that it could not be her maiden name. And as to  
“ her aunt, lady Astley, some evidence has been pro-  
“ duced to show there were other ladies Astley, *con-*  
“ *nected with Maidstone*, to whom she might have  
“ been niece, or she might have been niece to  
“ Katherine lady Astley, by some other means than  
“ by descent from her brother.”

In reply to these observations, it may be remarked,

1. That the public records, and particularly those of the prerogative office, furnish constantly occurring instances, especially in former times, where, in order to designate correctly a female who may have possessed certain rights or claims by

birth, the maiden name is placed in addition to and after her married name, and connected by an alias.

2. The use of the coat of Bridges only on the seal to the will, and on the escocheon for the funeral, supports the opinion that Bridges was the maiden name of the testatrix; and many instances could be produced from the funeral certificate-books in the heralds' college, where the maiden arms are recorded as having been used singly on the escocheons prepared for the funerals of widows.\*

3. No evidence was adduced, as above asserted, to show that there were other ladies Astley to whom the testatrix might have been niece, or any "*connected with Maidstone*" in 1641, other than Katherine lady Astley formerly Bridges. For the claimant's argument, it would have been necessary to show, either that one of the ladies Astley referred to had a niece Ann Bridges, or that Katherine lady Astley had *another niece of the name of Ann Bridges*, besides *the* Ann then so recently

\* Lady Mary Paulet, widow of lord Thomas Paulet, second son of the first marquis of Winchester, was daughter and co-heir of Thomas Moore, gent.: she died in 1571, and the arms of Moore only were used at her funeral. Coll. Armor. I 5. 190.

Mrs. Frances Linford, widow of Mr. William Linford, citizen and merchant tailor of London, and daughter of Mr. Albany of Bedford, died in 1622; and her escocheons bore the arms of Albany only. Coll. Armor. I 22. 71. Many other instances could be shown.

mentioned in the will of her husband Sir John. Now, it was never stated that Katherine lady Astley had more than one brother, and we know only of one sister, who certainly died without issue.

The proof of identity, therefore, of Ann Jackson, alias Bridges, with Ann Bridges, the person named in Sir John Astley's will, stands unshaken; and, the *Best* episode, and the papers which were discovered in so singular a manner and produced to uphold it, crumble into dust.\*

\* It has been seen, by the evidence, that great pains were taken to trace the precise connexion of the families of *Bond* and *Morris*, mentioned in the will of 1641. There can be no doubt that the families so mentioned were connected on the maternal side, but there was nothing to show who had been the mother of Ann Bridges.

It is remarkable, however, that since these sheets have been in the press, upon a reference to the parish register of St. Margaret, Westminster, where Sir John and lady Astley are known to have been resident in 1609, the following entry was observed amongst the marriages, viz.—

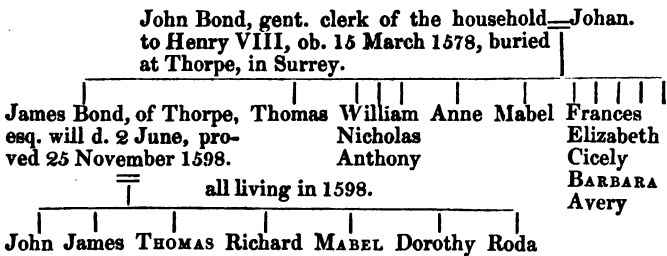
“ 1601, October 19, *Robert Briges to Mable Bond,*  
*by licence.*”

The licence bond would probably have settled the extremely probable conjecture that this Robert was the brother of lady Astley; but the records of the faculty office, from whence this licence is supposed to have issued, are said not to be extant of any date anterior to 1632, and the muniments of the church have been carefully examined without the desired effect. The following pedigree, compiled from a monumental inscription in Aubrey's Surrey, (vol. 3. 172,) and a will in 1598, would seem to point to the family of the “Mable Bond,” mentioned in the above entry:

John

It has been seen that the case, as it stood in 1791, was unprovided with any direct proof by which the asserted connexion of Edward, the claimant's ancestor, with the noble house could have been sustained; and that, subsequently, the claimant became dependent, for the verification of that fact, upon papers of extremely doubtful authenticity. If, then, upon contrasting the evidence, which those papers purported to supply, with the unquestionable legal and moral evidence opposed to it, we are bound to separate those doubtful papers from the case; there will remain only the secondary testimony of reputation, which it is proposed now to consider.

It must be borne in mind that the peerage here in question was neither one of that class, in respect to date, which is usually described as ancient, and to which a claimant is required to deduce his pedi-



It will be observed that Ann Jackson, alias Bridges, names her uncle *Thomas Bond*, and that the name of *Barbara Bond* also occurs in the will.

gree through a long series of generations; nor a dignity of remote creation, descendible to heirs general, where the representation might have fallen into frequent abeyance amongst female co-heirs who had carried their pretensions into families of far inferior rank. The peerage claimed in this instance is comparatively modern: the acknowledged ancestor of the claimant, and from whom he was the fourth only in descent, was, if born in 1603, born *within fifty years* after the date of the patent; and, as the limitations of that patent were to the heirs male of the body of the first taker, such ancestor was, if his pedigree be authentic, one of those very heirs contemplated by the royal grant. If, therefore, the single link of the chain, wanting to connect this ancestor with the recorded son or grandson of the patentee, could not be supplied by direct proof, evidence of reputation would certainly be the next best evidence: but it is conceived that it must be of a different kind of reputation from that which was set up by the claimant in this case, and the weight of which the most distinguished of his advocates considered to have been greatly under-rated in the argument.

A reputation, long subsisting in the family seeking the distinction, transmitted by father to son, strengthened by recognitions, however cold and dis-



tant, made, from time to time, in public or authentic private instruments, by members of the other known branches of the same stock, and further evidenced by an anxiety to preserve memorials of the descent, by descriptions or otherwise, in deeds, wills, and other legal transactions upon record — would be certainly such as might be safely relied on as confirmatory of the position sought to be established.

But, in the evidence of reputation produced for this claim, we discern none of these characteristics.

The first witness examined on this point, was Mrs. Jemima Bridges, the claimant's mother. This lady stated that, from the time she had first been acquainted with her husband, to whom she was married in 1747, she had frequently heard him say that he was of the Chandos family; that he had been too young to derive that information from his father; but that his mother had told him his father had often declared that he was so allied. The next point to which Mrs. Bridges deposed was, that two escocheons or achievements, produced at the bar, having thereon depicted the arms of the noble family, impaling arms ascribed to *Ockman*, and having the *mullet* for difference in the Bridges' coat, had hung in a passage leading from the hall to the kitchen in Wootton-house, at the time of her marriage, and that, when the passage required to be new-papered,

they had been at her desire taken down (as she thought they looked melancholy) and removed into a garret; and that one of them had been described to her by her husband as representing the arms of her husband's grandfather, who had married "into the Ockman family."

Conceding all the advantage which might be reasonably expected to accrue to the case from testimony of this description, its value is by no means considerable. We will pass by, as of slight estimation, the hearsay of descent from the house of Chandos; because there are few families, happening to bear distinguished surnames, in which some vague tradition is not entertained of a distant connexion with the principal family of the same name. But, with regard to the armorial achievements, we cannot avoid recollecting that it has been admitted that John Bridges, the grandfather of the deponent's husband, and for whose funeral one of these melancholy appendages was inferred to have been prepared, was, during his life, and at the time of his decease in 1699, carrying on the business of a *grocer*, in partnership with one Moses Agar, in a shop at Canterbury, which, in 1794, was in the occupation of a person named Sankey, who, it was said, had purchased it from Mrs. Jemima Bridges, the mother of the claimant. Is it credible, it may be asked, that, at

the funeral of an individual of that class of society, at Canterbury or elsewhere, armorial emblems of any kind would have been used, but especially at a period when the distinctions of rank were far more strictly observed than in the present age? If it should be answered that, although not used as an escocheon at the funeral, the valued relic might have been suspended, as a hatchment, in front of the house; the conjecture is at variance with the custom amongst persons in business, and open to the further objection, that the representatives of the defunct, who had by his will modestly directed that his remains should "be decently buried in the church-yard commonly called the chappell church-yard,"\* would scarcely have subjected his memory to the ridicule of his former neighbours by such a contradiction to all the unostentatious habits of a life, passed in the pursuits of a quiet and productive industry, which seems to have laid the foundation of the fortunes of his posterity.

At the age of seventeen, on the 19th November 1651, he had been bound apprentice to Thomas Ockman, of Canterbury, grocer — he was admitted to his freedom on the 5th October 1658, and mar-

\* The chapel church-yard is a burying ground which formerly belonged to the chapel of St. Mary de Castro at Canterbury; but, since the demolition of the castle and chapel, it has been used by the parish of St. Andrew (of which John Bridges was an inhabitant), and other parishes of the city which have no appropriate cemetery.

ried to Frances, his master's daughter, sometime before the 24th August 1670; upon whose death, in 1673, apparently without issue, he married, secondly, before the 11th October 1680, Mary Young, the daughter of Thomas Young, also a grocer at Canterbury, by whom he had issue, John, the claimant's grandfather, and other children. The second wife had died five years before him; and, at his own death, in 1699, the three sons of that marriage were still in their minority. By whose order, then, was such a hatchment likely to have been prepared?

No proof was adduced that John Bridges himself used any arms whatever; he had been entirely overlooked by the heralds at their visitation of 1663,\* and the three original instruments under

\* There is a rich chapter upon this grave subject in the honourable baronet's "*Lex Terræ*," pp. 198, 210, from which the following quotation cannot fail to amuse the reader, after the dry and unembellished details to which his attention has hitherto been solicited. "Here," exclaims Sir Egerton, "is a large funeral achievement publicly blazoned forth to the world, about 1663 or 1665, with the Chandos arms and crest, distinguished by the *mullet*, the mark of the third branch, telling to the world of what family, and what branch, the bearer claimed to be; and this put up in the most frequented street of the large city of Canterbury! In this very year, Sir Edward Byshe, Garter king, makes a visitation of the county of Kent; and, of course, has for a time his head-quarters at this very city. His business is to DISCLAIM all those who use arms to which they have no right, either by reputation, or proof; as well as to call on those, who have a right, to make entries of their pedigrees. At the end of his book, he inscribes the names of those who are dis-

his hand and seal, which were put in evidence, viz. the deeds of 1659 and 1684,\* and the will in 1699,† were not sealed with armorial ensigns, unless the rudely-engraved stag's-head, on the seal to the will, should be considered to come under that description.

“ *claimed.* Now, can any one suppose that *the open use of so noble a coat, in the present case, would have escaped his attention; and, if he had not known the right, that he would not have compelled the bearer to come forward and prove it; and, in case of default, have put him among the disclaimed?*” Again, (p. 202) “ One of them,” [the hatchments,] “ could be appropriated to a particular generation by the impalement of the arms of *Ockman*, which was the name of the first wife of John B——, which wife died in 1663 or 1665. There could be no doubt, therefore, that this hatchment was painted at her death. The other, having no impalement, belonged either to Edward the father, who died about 1665, or to John, who died a widower in 1699.”

Now, Mrs. Frances (*Ockman*), the first wife of John Bridges, was buried at St. Alphage, Canterbury, in 1673, ten years *after* the visitation at which *Bysshe*, *Clarenceux*, not *Garter*, in this chivalrous revelation, stood still to gaze on, and officially ratify the ensigns armorial flaunting over the shop of Thomas *Ockman*, or of *Bridges* and *Agar*, “ in the most frequented street of the large city of Canterbury!” Whatever homage the herald-king may have rendered to the noble *Bridges* and his distinguishing *mullet*, he must have been somewhat puzzled by the impalement; there being no family of *Ockman* amongst his subjects entitled to arms of any description; and still more perplexed at seeing, in front of the house, the hatchment of a lady who was, at the moment, in good health within doors. It was not only the province of the visiting heralds to *disclaim* those who bore arms falsely, but to summon all who were reputed to bear them lawfully, to show their right to them, and to record their pedigrees in proof of such right; and *Bysshe* having, in 1663, failed so to do, in the cases of Edward *Bridges* of *Feverham*, *Ockman* and his son-in-law, only proves that they were not of the rank which would have entitled them to be summoned.

\* P. 24.

† P. 25.

In the course of the proceedings, original deeds of the dates of 1635, 1659, 1684, 1704, 1709, 1719, 1732, and 1746, were exhibited, to all which the claimant's ancestors, from Edward Bridges of Feversham downwards, were parties; and not one of those instruments appeared to have been sealed with the arms of Bridges.\* One only, a release, dated in 1713, from the claimant's grandmother Jane Bridges, formerly Gibbon, to the executrix of John Coppin, which was produced in 1794† by Mr. Egerton Brydges, was sealed with those arms, differenced by the *mullet*: but this release had most probably formed part of those Coppin or Gibbon deeds which Mr. Abbott (lord Tenterden) observed‡ had been taken away from Wootton, and remained in other custody than that from which they ought to have been directly given in evidence. At the same time, Mr. Egerton Brydges exhibited the plan of a farm, made in 1682, with the arms and difference thereon; but this will scarcely be considered as a use of the arms by the family, who may, or may not, have authorised the insertion of them, if even it could be shown that such insertion had been contemporaneous. Nor were any of the wills of the family, viz. of John

\* This is an extraordinary circumstance, if it be the fact, that funeral achievements and escocheons of the family arms were "publicly blazoned forth to the world."

† P. 17.

‡ See pp. 26, 27.

Bridges in 1699, John, his son, in 1712, and Edward, his grandson, in 1780, sealed with arms. The last mentioned will (that of the claimant's father) is sealed with an ordinary head, certainly not the crest of Bridges.

It would have been deemed irrelevant to enter so much in detail upon evidence apparently so trivial, but for the singular importance which, in the absence of stronger points, was attached to the armorial achievements. Taking, however, all the circumstances to which we have adverted into consideration, there is great reason to doubt their implied antiquity; and particularly that of the *mullet*, which, during the period of their deposit in the garret by an order of Mrs. Bridges, collected from her evidence to have been given not very long after her marriage, may have owed its introduction into the usurped coat to some ingenious hand. Neither Mrs. Bridges, nor Mr. Lefroy, who married the claimant's sister, were asked whether they distinctly recollected that the *mullet* had formed part of the bearings at the time when they first saw the achievements.

With reference to the parole testimony given in 1794, by lady Caroline Leigh and lady Catherine Stanhope, the former having been sister to the last duke of Chandos, and the latter first cousin to his

grace ; lord Eldon is stated to have expressed himself as follows :

“ By the depositions of these ladies, it appears, that  
 “ Mr. James Brydges, of Pinner, who was a near re-  
 “ lation, and next heir male to the duke, speaking of  
 “ an accident which had happened in 1789, to a lady  
 “ of the name of Maxwell, who was sister to Mr.  
 “ Brydges, of Kent, said that he would be heir to the  
 “ duke of Chandos and himself, provided they should  
 “ die without issue male: and that the late duke,  
 “ in a subsequent conversation, confirmed what had  
 “ passed by making declarations to the same effect.  
 “ My lords, I consider this as material evidence in this  
 “ case, inasmuch as it comes from a person who was  
 “ himself the heir to most of the honours of the duke  
 “ in case he should survive him, and could not be  
 “ supposed to be inattentive to this point, or to speak  
 “ carelessly or inconsiderately on the subject, and  
 “ proves the evidence of reputation which existed,  
 “ that that, which is alleged to be the younger branch,  
 “ was acknowledged by the elder branch of this fa-  
 “ mily ; and your lordships will hardly imagine the  
 “ idea could have got into their minds, *by means*  
 “ *which your lordships seem to have considered as*  
 “ *suspicious.*”

Now, on referring to the minutes of the committee, these observations, if truly reported, would, with all deference to his lordship, appear to have been made with a degree of force which the evidence in



question did not warrant. It might be inferred, from his lordship's statement, that *both* those ladies, had deposed to the same effect, a concurrence which would certainly have added material weight to their testimony.

Lady Caroline Leigh, upon being asked, whether she recollected any conversation relative to an accident which had happened to a lady of the name of Maxwell, replied—"Mr. Brydges, of Pinner, told me that that lady was a relation of our's; that she was sister to Mr. Bridges, of Kent, who was heir to him and the late duke of Chandos, provided the late duke should die without a son;" and this lady only appears to have mentioned the matter to her brother the duke.

Q. "Did you relate to his grace the substance of the conversation you had had with Mr. Brydges?"

A. "*In a slight manner I did.*"

Q. "Whether his grace made any and what observations upon it?"

A. "*He made very little observation; but, to the best of my recollection, he said, 'I believe the gentleman is right,' and the conversation dropped immediately.*"

Upon her cross-examination, she was asked—

Q. "Whether you had ever heard of that family in Kent, before the conversation with Mr. Brydges of Pinner?"

*A.* “ *I do not recollect I ever did—otherwise than that there was a family of the name in Kent.*”\*

*Q.* “ *Was there any connexion between that family in Kent, and your’s ?*”

*A.* “ *None that I know of.*”

Lady Catherine Stanhope’s evidence is still more vague and indefinite.

*Q.* “ *Did you ever hear him [Mr. Brydges, of Pinner, who was cousin-german to her father, and had married her sister] speak of Mr. Bridges of Kent ?*”

*A.* “ *Upon asking him, in case the late duke of Chandos should die without a son, whether the title would be extinct, he said, there was a Mr. Bridges of Kent, who had, if he chose to take it up, a claim to the peerage.*”

*Q.* “ *Do you recollect whether he did, or did not, describe the part of Kent in which that Mr. Bridges resided ?*”

*A.* “ *No, I do not recollect.*”

Thus it is evident that the confirmation by the duke of his cousin’s opinion as to the succession, (which did not seem to be founded upon any knowledge derived from an interchange of communications between the ducal and the Kentish families,)

\* The only family of consequence in Kent, of the name of Bridges, is that of Sir Brook Bridges, bart. of Goodnestone Park, near Sandwich; and that may have been the family of which lady Caroline had heard mention.

was made in the slightest manner possible ; and not to *both* ladies, as it was stated to have been ; and neither of these parties, whose testimony Sir Egerton Brydges has frequently inferred to have been so important as almost to supersede the necessity of other proof of his title, appeared to have had any personal acquaintance with the family in Kent alluded to, or to have possessed the qualification described by lord Eldon, in his opinion in the case of *Whitlock v. Baker*,\* to be requisite in order to give the proper weight to such testimony—that of being persons “ having such a connexion with the “ party, to whom the tradition relates, that it is “ natural and likely, from their domestic habits and “ connexions, that they are speaking the truth, and “ that they could not be mistaken.”

We are now arrived at the last stage of our inquiry, when the following question presses upon our attention :

*Who was Edward Bridges of Ospringe and  
Feversham ?*

From the few acts of this person which are known to us from authentic sources, and which consist, exclusively, of his marriage in 1627—a covenant, in 1635, to levy a fine of certain premises of

\* Phillips on Evidence, p. 187.

which he was seized in right of that marriage—two other covenants in the same year—and his personal sanction, in 1662, of the marriage of his daughter, we find it obviously impossible to consider him as the heir of Anthony, and representative of the third branch of the baronial family. And if we are bound to assume, taking into view all the inconsistencies which would be inseparable from a contrary assumption, that, upon the death of lady Astley in 1648, all issue from Anthony, her father, and the head of that branch, was completely extinguished, we naturally repeat the question, *what was Edward's true origin?*

It was not incumbent upon the law-advisers of the crown to solve this question, the burthen of proof resting wholly upon the claimant; but they, nevertheless, felt that the cause of truth and justice would be essentially promoted by its satisfactory solution; and they accordingly directed investigations to be made with that object.

Among the families of Bridges which abound in Canterbury, and throughout East Kent, is one of respectability at St. Nicholas at Wade, in the isle of Thanet, in the rank of "gentlemen-farmers," the members of which had considered themselves to be distantly related to the claimant's family; had adopted the christian names prevalent in the claimant's line (particularly that of Edward); *and had*

*borne the Chandos arms and crest*, as appears by a monument in the parish church of St. Nicholas, a copy of which was given in evidence before the committee.\* With this family Mr. Egerton Brydges had, in the conjectural pedigree already referred to,† supposed his own to be, by affinity, connected. The family at St. Nicholas derives its origin from Harbledown, a parish adjacent to Canterbury, and on the road between that city and Feversham; and is distinctly traced up to JOHN BRIDGES OF HARBLEDOWN,‡ who, according to the register of that parish, was married, in 1600, to Mary Avis; by whom, according to the same register, he appears to have had, at least, three sons, John, born in 1601; EDWARD, born in 1606; and Thomas, born in 1612; and a daughter Mary.§ From John, the eldest son, descended John Bridges, styled "*the younger*," of St. Andrew the Apostle, in Canterbury, grocer, who made his will in 1681, to which the claimant's great-grandfather, John Bridges, an inhabitant of the same parish and of the same business, was a subscribing witness. The last-men-

\* P. 48.

† Appendix, n. XVI.

‡ It appears, by the transcript of the parish register of Harbledown for 1632, that this John Bridges was churchwarden in that year, and, in that quality, set *his mark* (in the form of an *hour-glass*) to the return. He made a similar mark in the book of marriage licences for 1635, when he attended at Canterbury in order to give his consent to the marriage of his son Thomas.

§ See Pedigree III. after Appendix.

tioned John, the claimant's ancestor, had previously, in 1669, been surety, jointly with Thomas Bridges, of St. Nicholas at Wade, yeoman, in the bond of administration\* of the effects of another John Bridges, who was uncle to the testator of 1681. These confidential transactions between persons who, according to the Harbledown pedigree, were of near kindred to each other, † confirm the conjecture, amounting nearly to proof, that EDWARD, *the second son of John Bridges of Harbledown*, was Edward, afterwards of Ospringe and Feversham, and, therefore, *the true progenitor of the claimant.* ‡

Several circumstances, which from their extraordinary concurrence in furthering a particular object, can scarcely be deemed to have been accidental, combined to frustrate the endeavours which were used to place beyond doubt the descent from John of Harbledown.

1. The obliteration, apparently by means of some liquid, of five entries of baptism in the year 1606,

\* Appendix, n. XIV.

† The intestate of 1669 was, according to the Pedigree, cousin-german to John, the claimant's great-grandfather.

‡ Thomas Bridges, of Harbledown, can-maker, third son of John and Mary Avis, had several sons, the eldest of whom, John, settled also at *Feversham*, having probably followed his uncle Edward to that place; and Edward, the youngest, was ancestor to the present family at St. Nicholas.

in the parish register of St. Michael's, Harbledown, the fourth having recorded the baptism of Edward the son of John Bridges, by Mary Avis, on the 5th of October in that year. This obliteration occurred, according to the evidence,\* between 1791 (when the entry was perfect and copied by John Coleman) and 1794, when the same register was, ineffectually, as far as regarded the particular entry in question, examined by Mr. Townsend.†

2. A leaf missing from the register of marriage licences at Canterbury, which, doubtless, recorded the licence issued for the marriage of Edward Bridges and Katherine Sharpe in 1627, and to which John Bridges, of Harbledown, must be presumed to have set his consenting *mark*.‡

3. The non-production of a settlement, which, under the circumstances of Katherine Sharpe, both as to age and fortune, was, without doubt, made on her marriage with Edward Bridges, and to which, in all probability, the young couple being both minors, John Bridges, of Harbledown, would have been a party, and of course described therein as the father of Edward. Many inquiries were made by

\* Pp. 38, 45.

† An absurd attempt was made during the proceedings before the committee, to fix this misdemeanour by insinuation upon Mr. Townsend, whose object would have been to have preserved, and not to have destroyed, evidence so material.

‡ See observations on this point at p. 154.

the committee for this settlement ; but it was denied to be amongst the claimant's papers.

4. The removal, from the bundle of original wills in the registrar's office at Canterbury for the year 1646, of the will of the said John Bridges of Harbledown, which appears, by the probate act-book in the archdeacon's court at Canterbury, to have been actually proved on 22d January 1646,\* two of his sons, John and Thomas, being executors. The wills for that year are not copied in any register of the period, but the originals are tied up in a bundle. The will which in the entry in the act-book preceded that of John Bridges, and the will which succeeded it, are both in their places in the bundle. The importance of this lost document to the case is of the highest kind, as the testator would, doubtless, have described the then state of his family ; and Edward's eldest son was, at that date, already twelve years old.

But, allowing due weight to the maxim of law—*de non apparentibus et non existentibus eadem est ratio*—which may be considered to apply to three out of four documents, the production of which would have satisfactorily settled the question in one way or the other, we cannot but think the counsel for the crown to have been fully justified in their inference,

\* Appendix, n. XIII.



that John Bridges of Canterbury was a member of the Harbledown family; supported as such inference was by evidence of an interchange of offices of friendship and confidence, the proximity of residence, and the identity of pursuits and station.

There is yet a circumstance which, so far as we recollect, was not alluded to pending the discussions on the case, but which seems to require some notice here.

In the Harleian MS. No. 1174, being a volume of miscellaneous pedigrees by different hands, we find, at fol. iii<sup>b</sup>, a genealogy of the lords Chandos, in which the tenant of the dignity at the time of the compilation, William the fourth baron, is deduced from the stirps, Simon à Brugge. Giles, the third lord, grandson of the grantee, is mentioned to have died without issue male; and the pedigree ends with "William Bridges, Lord Chandos, after the death of his brother;" records his marriage with Mary Hopton; but leaves off there, without notice of his issue which afterwards succeeded to the title. These circumstances fix a date to the compilation, viz. between 1594, when Giles died, and 1602, the year of the death of William; for if William had been dead, his son, Grey, would have been inserted, who became, at the latter date, the fifth Lord Chan-

dos. In this pedigree, the names of the younger sons of John the first lord are given without any further description: from "*Anthony*," however, a line of descent is drawn to a "*Robert*," and another from the latter to an "*Edward*" and an "*Agnes*." The three last names are set down without the surname, as well as those of "*John*" (afterwards of Cirencester), connected by a line with Richard the brother of Anthony, and "*Giles*" (afterwards Sir Giles, the first baronet) the son of Charles; and the whole five are manifestly *supplemental*, and the space, which they respectively occupy, has been tinged with some liquid, imparting to those entries an appearance of antiquity. The interpolation is ingeniously executed, the handwriting of the original pedigree being extremely well imitated.

It is clear, the pedigree having been drawn up in the lifetime of William, that the supposed issue of Robert, not born until 1603, could have had no place in the original. At what time, then, was the interpolation made? It is not likely that it existed in 1791; because, at that date, and for several antecedent years, the brother of the claimant was much engaged in researches at the British Museum, and this pedigree, being referred to under the head of "*Bridges*," in the index to the catalogue of 1759, then in use, cannot be supposed to have escaped

his observation.\* The very gist of his brother's case was, that Robert had a son Edward; that the niece of lady Astley, called in the will of Sir John, Anne, otherwise *Agnes*,† had a brother of that name; and that his own ancestor Edward was that brother. Here, then, would have been something like proof of two of these important propositions; and, although the book could not have been received in evidence, so corroborating a coincidence as the existence of such an entry might have been alluded to by the counsel for the claim, in the course of their statement, with considerable moral effect. It is, therefore, presumable that the interpolation was made *after* 1791; but by whom, and with what motive, seems difficult to imagine.

In concluding our review of a case which, we believe, has no parallel, for weakness, in the history of peerage claims, we purpose to submit a few remarks upon the new titular honour of Sir Samuel Egerton Brydges.‡

\* "The years, from 1785 to 1791, were not amongst the most dangerous, but amongst the most wearisome and low-spirited of my life." "I remember how I pored over 'Dugdale's Baronage' during that time, and transcribed pedigrees from the British Museum."—*Autobiography*, vol. i. p. 9.

† The name of *Anne* not happening to occur in any other part of the pedigree, that of *Agnes*, which did occur, was probably, for that reason, preferred.

‡ It appears, by the frontispiece to vol. I. of the "Autobiography," to have been adopted by the honourable baronet as part of his ordi-

The worthy baronet having succeeded, as heir to his late brother, to whatever pretensions the latter may have possessed to the inheritance of the baronial dignity, denies the competency of the house of lords to adjudicate on claims to the peerage,\* and has written a book of considerable length, under the title of "Lex Terræ," to prove that, by the common law, he is not bound to abide by the decision of 1803, which did not take from him the protection of a resort to a legal trial by a jury of his countrymen. This appears to us to have been a perfectly gratuitous vindication of a right which will not admit of dispute. The late claimant took the usual course in petitioning the crown for the issue of a writ of summons to him as a peer of the realm: his majesty was advised to refer the sub-

nary signature, and we find it prefixed, as an acknowledged style, to an article of no inconsiderable literary merit in a recent magazine.

\* It is always to be remembered, when discussing the justice of a reference of peerage cases by the king to the house of peers, that the grant of a peerage being a royal prerogative, the crown must be satisfied that the person claiming to be admitted into that house is the individual contemplated by the limitations of the grant. For which purpose the king's attorney-general is bound to watch over these high interests, which could not be so effectually done in a court of law, as no action can lie against the crown for withholding a writ of summons. The house of peers, the highest court in the land, seems therefore to be the most proper tribunal for determining such rights. The people also are to be protected, by the most efficacious means possible, against the intrusion of any person not strictly entitled to a seat in an assembly of hereditary legislators.

ject-matter of that petition to the consideration and opinion of the house of peers: the house, having by means of its committee for privileges, acquired all the information it could obtain thereon, resolved that the petitioner had not made out his claim, and reported that opinion to the king.\* This resolution of the peers was not an estoppel of his right to pursue his claim: and if his majesty should not have thought fit to entertain a further petition for the same object, supported by new and cogent allegations, the common law would doubtless have provided some remedy by which an individual so circumstanced might be enabled to assert his right; but, until some means shall have been successfully resorted to, we are humbly of opinion that nothing can be more ridiculous or absurd than to assert that he is a peer *by the law of the land*. For, with equal consistency, might any gentleman of the name of Bridges—Mr. Bridges, for instance, of St. Nicholas at Wade, whose family appears to have used, for a great length of time, the Chandos arms and crest—

\* The author of "*Lex Terræ*" asserts, p. 6, (and *passim*, as well as in "*Autobiography*,") that the resolution was that the claim had not been made out "*by evidence sufficiently satisfactory*." The resolution contained no such words, nor any admission that the evidence had been *in part* or *at all* satisfactory. The committee for privileges resolved that *it did not appear to them* that the claimant had made out his claim; and the house of peers resolved simply, upon the report of the resolution of the committee, that the petitioner *had not made out his claim*.

array himself in the knightly cuirass, adorned with the armorial bearings of the noble house,\* and with his sword in one hand, and the enrolment of Queen Mary's patent in the other, protest against "a *parvenu* nobility",† and exact from the circle of society in which he moves, a deference, in his person, to the dignity which that patent conferred!

It would surely have been more becoming, in the unsuccessful manager of a case in which he had so deep a personal interest, to have refrained from the indiscriminate abuse with which he has assailed every person, high and low, whose faculties were, according to his opinion, too obtuse, but perhaps too acute, in the opinion of those who will have seen the shallow and loose ground upon which that case stood, to agree to the inferences which he desired to have drawn, and, upon the test of a pedigree, to say the least extremely problematical, to place him and his posterity in the great hereditary council of the realm. The four law-lords, Rosslyn, Kenyon, Alvanley, and Ellenborough, who were of that "stiff-necked generation," are aspersed,

\* Compare the title page of "Autobiography, &c." with n. XXIII of the Appendix to this review.

† "We see of what stuff these new men are made: *the smell of the old cask* never leaves them." *Autobiog.* vol. ii. 50. Surely a descendant of John Bridges, of Canterbury, might have avoided so indelicate a simile!

throughout his writings, in a manner the most gross and unjustifiable;\* and lord Redesdale, not then a peer, but who had, whilst solicitor-general, formed, evidently upon proper and conscientious grounds, a strong opinion against the claim; and Mr. Perceval, whose upright sense of duty led him into the same course, are, more particularly, the objects of aspersions which, under such circumstances, bespatter far more the inflicter than the victim. Against persons inferior in station to those who have been mentioned, and who, like them, are now no more, but whose reputation and character are dear to their surviving families and connexions, he

\* Rosalyn—a man “who had no rectitude about him,” &c. *Autobiog.* vol. . 292.

Kenyon—“a man without a liberal education, and of narrow and bigoted notions,” *ibid.* 293.

Alvanley—One “with an ugly broken-nosed face, goggle-eyes,” &c. “of a blundering understanding,” &c. *ibid.* 299.—His lordship, by the by, was so ungrateful as to vote against the claim, although Sir Egerton, some years before, when mounted on his charger, as captain of fencible cavalry, had kindly forborne to ride over him!

Ellenborough—“Scarcely above par in talents,” *ibid.* 293. “Impatient, hasty, vituperative, and incorrect in his authorities, arguments, conclusions, and opinions,” 294.

Redesdale—“A sallow man with round face and blunt features,” &c. p. 159. “had no abilities, and nothing like true learning,” &c. p. 295.—He even falls foul of his lordship’s elder brother, the historian of Greece, p. 159.

Perceval—“Had no adequate capacity for any one of these situations. He had no oratory, but a barking, snappish manner,” &c. 297, 298 — “the countenance, size, tone, and dissonance of a lap-dog.” Vol. ii. 178.

holds no measure in vituperation, describing them as *serpents*,\* *myrmidons*,† &c. because they presumed to deny his derivation from “a male stock established to be baronial from the conquest!”

It is difficult to find a sufficient reason for the anxiety betrayed by this, in many respects, eminent person, throughout a long life, for objects which, if attained, could not have raised him in the estimation of the poet or the philosopher, whose immortality he covets; objects which, unless hallowed by more sterling qualities, would have but little elevated him in the judgment of the good and virtuous. It is still less easy to us to account for his pressing, “*fervidis rotis*,” at so late an hour, on the threshold of a new existence, towards a goal, which no sophistry can, in calm and unimpassioned moments, conceal from him he cannot, and ought not, in justice, to reach. The study of genealogy, often ridiculed with more acrimony than candour, seems to have taken deep root in his inquiring mind from an early period; and though perhaps, as he confesses, his leisure might have been more usefully filled, yet such a devotion is rather laudable than to be censured when its aim is to illustrate doubtful points of history. We remember to have perused with pleasure and instruction an ingenious essay

\* *Autobiog.* vol. i. 204.

† *Ibid.* p. 238.



from his pen entitled "Who was Ida of Habsburg?" which evinced great research and judgment, and afforded a satisfactory solution of a curious historical problem. Had Sir Egerton always ambled his hobby so harmlessly, and contented himself with a modest display of the undeniable lustre of his maternal stock, his frequent and somewhat obtrusive complaints of the unkindness of his contemporaries might have been confined to their denial of his claim to be numbered among the higher poets of his age. He would not have had also to deplore the failure of, apparently, a still more cherished object of his ambition—the honours of the British peerage—to which he has, more unequivocally, no legitimate pretension; nor have incurred the unpleasant, but, unhappily just, reproach—

"JACTES ET GENUS ET NOMEN INUTILE!"

## POSTSCRIPT.

WE shall avail ourselves of this opportunity, to offer a few out of a host of remarks, that have occurred to us on a perusal of “*Lex Terræ*,” and “*The Autobiography*,”—works which, although to be classed among the most desultory and immethodical, would be more amusing and instructive than they really are, if they were less imaginative, and if a firmer reliance could be placed on their accuracy.

LORD C. J. HOLT’S JUDGMENT.—“*Did not Lord Holt here, in a Court of Common Law, adjudge the question of the Banbury peerage?*”—*Lex Terræ*, p. 68.

Certainly not: as will appear from the following statement of the nature and effect of that judgment.

In 1692, Charles Knollys, called earl of Banbury, son and heir of Nicholas, also called earl of Banbury, but whose legitimacy had been questioned, having been indicted for murder by the name of Charles Knollys, esquire, presented his petition to the House of Peers, in which he did not claim the title, but, alleging himself to be by hereditary right earl of Banbury and one of the peers of the

realm, prayed to be tried by his peers for the crime with which he stood charged.

The house thereupon heard counsel for the petition and the attorney-general on behalf of the Crown, who after declaring the King's surprise that any one should ask to be tried as a peer before he had prayed the king for a writ of summons, declared that his majesty did not think fit to interpose, but left the matter to the judgment of the house; and, when their lordships should have determined, his majesty would do therein what might be proper.

After investigating the evidence, with reference also to former proceedings on the claims both of Nicholas and Charles, the house resolved that the petitioner had not any right to the title, and dismissed the petition.

The indictment having been removed by certiorari into the court of king's bench, Charles Knollys was arraigned in that court, acknowledged himself to be the person indicted, but pleaded a misnomer in abatement; offering to verify the facts by which he claimed to be seised of the title of earl of Banbury, and prayed judgment upon the indictment, whether, in respect of his not being named earl of Banbury therein, he ought to be compelled further to answer to it.

To this plea attorney-general Somers made a replication, insisting that the said Charles ought to answer to the indictment, because his petition to the house of lords to be tried by the peers of the kingdom had been dismissed; it having been resolved by their lordships, that he had not any right to the title claimed by him. The

replication concluded with praying that the indictment might be adjudged good, and that the said Charles might answer further thereto. To this replication the defendant demurred; and sir Edward Ward, who was then become attorney-general, joined in demurrer.

The court of king's bench proceeded on the misnomer plea and the replication thereto, by hearing further arguments of counsel. The result was that, in 1694, the court decided *against the sufficiency of the replication*, and adjudged that the indictment should be quashed.

The general principle of the judgment, to be collected from the reports of Holt's celebrated argument (especially that in *Skynner* 517), is that the resolution of the house of lords upon the petition presented to them in the first instance, and not first addressed to the King for his determination and referred by his majesty to the lords, was not conclusive upon the defendant, and could not be replied as a legal judgment destructive of the right set up by the defendant in his plea. The advisers of the crown seem to have concurred in the decision of the court of king's bench; for no writ of error was ever brought to carry the case before the lords.

This proceeding of the court of king's bench *left the question of the peerage precisely where it had stood*, and determined only that the replication was not in law a sufficient one, and that the judgment of 1692 (without considering its bearing upon the case) was not such a judgment as the law of the land would recognise as a bar to the plea of misnomer; the house of lords not having original jurisdiction to adjudge a man to be a peer or not

a peer, unless the King, upon a petition, should have referred that point to their determination.

The question of the peerage had turned upon the legitimacy of Nicholas : there had been no evidence before the court of king's bench to prove that legitimacy or to impugn it : how then could lord Holt be said to have adjudged the Banbury peerage ?

It would seem that it is upon a view, directly opposite to that we have taken of the nature and effect of lord Holt's judgment, that sir S. E. Brydges has founded his supposed right to call himself baron Chandos : but how shallow must such foundation appear, when it is considered that the resolution of the house of peers in his brother's case was not, like that of 1692, made without a previous reference from the Crown, but had all the requisite authority to render it consonant with usage and valid ! It was not in words so conclusive as that of 1692 ; for it did not determine that his brother had not any right to the title, or that of 1813, which declared that general Knollys was not entitled to the dignity ; but it was simply resolved and adjudged that the claim had not been made out ; thereby leaving the matter open for future adjudication upon more sufficient evidence.

But until an adjudication in favour of the claim shall have been made, we repeat that the assumption of the title is preposterous and absurd. Sir S. E. Brydges stands exactly in the situation in which his brother stood when he petitioned the King for a writ of summons, and the latter might, with equal propriety, have described himself in that petition as " baron Chandos of Sudeley by the law of the land."

BANBURY CASE.—“ *The cruelties attending the Banbury Case will be felt by every one who attends to the facts. There can be no rational doubt that the claimant’s ancestor was legitimate, which is the precise word to convey his legal condition. The law says that a person born in wedlock under certain circumstances shall be heir to the husband. Why—then he is legitimate where these circumstances concur! Did those circumstances concur in the Banbury claimant? Yes! Then he was legitimate.*”

*Lex Terræ, p. 105.*

*“ It is most probable that, in point of fact, the claimant’s ancestor was the son of lord Vaux, and not of the countess’s husband William first earl of Banbury.”*

*Autobiog. vol. i. 361.*

The constant anxiety manifested by sir S. E. Brydges, throughout the works from which the above passages are quoted, to show the incompetency of the jurisdiction of the house of peers to decide on cases of peerage, has led him to overlook the glaring injustice of palming upon the country a spurious brood of hereditary legislators. It is surely well that, in a case of such flagrant immorality as that which is implied in the above passages, there should be some jurisdiction, were it even above the law, to prevent the triumph of a scheme of infamy; and it is a happy circumstance that the law of adulterine bastardy has at length been so properly settled, that no doubt can in future arise upon the manner in which such a case should be dealt with.

There were, doubtless, many facts in this case, well known to the peers in 1661, (when Vaux was still alive,) which fully justified the dissent of the house from the report of the committee for privileges, which had been framed upon the old doctrine of *infra quatuor maria*. That the claimant Nicholas was not the offspring of the earl, seems even then to have been admitted by the qualified description, legitimate "*in the eye of the law.*" But may not an hypothesis, that Edward and Nicholas were not the children of the countess, but of Edward lord Vaux by some other woman or women, be supported by the following facts and inferences ?

1st. *The age of the countess.* It is pretended that she was delivered of Edward in 1627, when she was at least 44—and of Nicholas in January 1630–31, when she was 48. Although instances of pregnancy at that period are not infrequent in women who have been in the habit of child-bearing; yet it is most extraordinary that a woman should *begin* to bear children at that advanced age.

2nd. *The names of the children.* It is most improbable, that to children born of the countess under such circumstances (when the prospective idea of deceiving the world as to the genuineness of their birth, must have been formed by the adulterers) names should have been given entirely unknown in the Knollys family, and common in that of Vaux. This inference is founded upon the constant observation, that the general practice in ancient as well as modern families has been to adopt especial christian names.

3rd, *The strong improbability, not to say impossibility, that the countess could have been pregnant and delivered of children, at the different times stated, without the knowledge of the earl, is founded upon the following facts:*

1. That the presence of the countess, during the latter years of the earl's life appears to have been constantly necessary, and in fact called for in the different conveyances of the property—e. g. *as to Nicholas*. The fine for passing Cholcey was levied within 15 days after St. Martin, in the 6th year of Charles 1st.—that is, towards the latter end of November (St. Martin's day being on the 11th,) 1630—when the countess, according to the alleged date of the birth of Nicholas on the 3rd January following (1630-1), must have been within five or six weeks of her delivery of that son. She must have been personally present at the passing of the fine, and it is not to be supposed that the advanced state of her pregnancy could have been concealed from the earl her husband.
2. That the earl was totally ignorant of the pregnancy and delivery; which is demonstrable from all his acts, and particularly from the public testimony which he gave of her affectionate conduct towards him in the deed, dated 3 Nov. 1629 (when Edward would have been two and-a-half years old, in which he declares, that she had always "*been unto him a good and loving wife,*"—a spontaneous encomium which he would not have passed upon



her, had he then had the smallest suspicion of her adulterous intercourse, and of its spurious result.

4th, *The natural feelings of a mother*, which generally act more strongly, soon after the birth of a child, at an age when further offspring cannot be expected, preclude our belief that Nicholas was the issue of her body. Yet, two months after such alleged birth of Nicholas, at Harrowden, had scarcely elapsed before she executed the conveyance, which passed her life interest in Rotherfield Greys to her husband's nephew sir Robert Knollys, and thus involved her new-born infant, as well as her former issue, in the same act of dis-inherison.

5th. *The protracted concealment of the children long after the cause for such concealment had ceased.*—William, earl of Banbury, died 25 May 1632; and it appears that, immediately afterwards, the countess intermarried with lord Vaux; but that her proper description under this new connexion was concealed from the feodary who made the return to the inquisitio post mortem, and omitted also in the jurat and grant of the probate of the earl's will on the 2d July following, wherein she is described simply as his relict. On that very day, however, she executed a conveyance of the mansion and demesne lands of Caversham, of which she was seised in fee, to lord Harrowden, Edward Wilkinson (one of the witnesses before the committee of privileges in 1661) and others; she being described in that conveyance as *the wife of lord Vaux*. Now Edward, the elder of the two children, was not

produced until *nine* years, and Nicholas, the younger, was never, by name, heard of until *fourteen* years, after that marriage. Had these children been the children of the countess, either genuine or spurious, what reason could lord Vaux and his wife have had for withholding them from the knowledge of the world? We may fairly ask, where were they during the time of concealment from 1632 to 1641? were they under the care of their respective mothers?

As to the objection against such an hypothesis, namely, that in the deed of 1646, in the presence of lord Vaux and the countess his wife, Nicholas is described as *son of the countess*, it may thus be answered.

1. That she was under the influence of her husband, lord Vaux, and, for reasons now unknown to us, may have consented to this, not unprecedented, adoption of the illegitimate offspring of that husband.
2. That the designation of Nicholas, in that deed, as the son of the countess, may have been introduced by the drawer of the instrument, as another mode of identifying a being, the doubtfulness of whose birth had subjected him to different descriptions.

And

3. In the deed of 1646, Nicholas is thus described ;  
 “ Nicholas, now earl of Banbury, son of the said  
 “ countess of Banbury, heretofore called Nicholas  
 “ Vaux, or by whichsoever of the said names or  
 “ descriptions, or any other name or description the  
 “ said Nicholas be, or hath been called, reputed, or  
 “ known.”

Is it presumptuous to suppose that, among those *other* names here alluded to but not stated, was the name of the *real* mother of Nicholas, which, with the acquiescence of the countess, it was the object of lord Vaux to conceal?

It is remarkable that lord Vaux, by the deed of 1646, settled the whole of his estate, which comprised nine manors, upon Nicholas, although he had two brothers, William and Henry Vaux, and three sisters, Catherine, wife of Sir Henry Nevil, Mary, wife of Sir George Simeon, and Joyce Vaux. By his will, dated 25 April, and proved 9 Sept. 1661, he adverts to "the little estate which he shall leave behind" him, and gives to his brother, Mr. Henry Vaux, £10, to buy him mourning, and his silver tankard; and to his sister, Mrs. Joyce Vaux, a like sum for mourning, and "his silver porringer and spoon, being all the plate he had left."

THE CIRCULAR LETTER.\*—"As to making a mere empty  
"circular letter (miscalled a canvass) a ground for an  
"adverse decision, it outrages all the cases upon re-  
"cord."—*Lex Terræ*, p. 101.

"The admitted influence of the circular letter on that reso-  
"lution ought entirely to deprive it of any force."

*Ibid.* p. 10.

"It was calculated, in direct words, to drive away all the  
"claimant's supporters; and it did, in fact, drive  
"away at least three out of every four."

*Autobiog.* vol. i. 242.

\* See p. 126.

“ *The Chandos case was the victim of certain borough-intrigues of a powerful peer.*”—*Lex Terræ*, p. 79.

Here are two very different reasons assigned for the failure of a case, which was not adjudged without a patient hearing of the evidence, and long discussions on the effect of that evidence, maintained with singular ability and eloquence. That a letter which, though certainly of the nature of “ a canvass,” was, after all, only an appeal to the justice of the peer addressed and his candid consideration of the evidence, with a somewhat whining allusion to “ insinuations and prejudices” with which the writer had had “ to struggle,” should have had an influence upon any honourable mind, and occasion a single vote contrary to the dictates of conscience in the giver of it, is as improbable a conjecture as that a case of this kind should have been a victim to “ borough-intrigues.” The letter, no doubt, brought a number of peers down to the house, who, having never attended any of the sittings of the committee, returned to their homes, after their curiosity had been satisfied as to the cause of so extraordinary an invitation, of course without voting upon a case with the merits of which they were unacquainted.

There were, on the day in question, 51 peers in the committee, including the lord chancellor and the bishop of Oxford. Of these 22 voted;\* and the remainder left the house, certainly not “ driven away” by the circular or the comments upon it, before the division. Among those, who went without having voted, was Lord Chedworth, who is

\* See p. 127.

erroneously stated to have voted against the claim, and is accordingly most roughly handled by the indignant baronet.\* *Two* bishops (Cleaver and Randolph) are also said to have been among the voters (although the bishop of Oxford was the only spiritual lord present), and the public is thereupon reminded of the unworthiness of these prelates, because they owed their mitres to a certain noble family in which they had been tutors. “It was a very unkind and unexpected cut, for he (Dr. Randolph) was remotely related to the claimant; and his grandfather, who was recorder of Canterbury, was an intimate friend of the claimant’s grandfather.”

It is evident that the lord chancellor declined voting, not because he had been formerly of counsel for the claimant, much less from any resentment on account of the ill-fated circular which his lordship, as official guardian of the privileges of the house, found it necessary in strong terms to censure, but because doubts had arisen in his mind upon a general review of the evidence: for, in the exordium of his celebrated speech on that day, he says:—

“There are many circumstances in this case which tend to excite in my mind much diffidence as to the part which I ought to act this day as one of your lordships, and to doubt extremely whether or not I should give any vote at all on this occasion. But, as your lordships know, that in the course of my professional practice, I was for a considerable time confidentially employed by the claimant in the business of this case, I feel it my duty now to speak my opinion fully on its merits.”

It is clear, from the tenor of this declaration, that lord Eldon had come to the house under impressions of doubt

\* See *Autobiog.* vol. i. 248, *et passim.*

as to which way he should vote, or rather whether he should vote at all. He could not well, under the circumstances of his former employment in the case, vote against it; but he might have voted for it, had he been convinced of its validity: that he ended with not voting, must be taken as a strong indication that his opinion on the subject had undergone a material change.

HERALD'S NOBILITY.—“ *I know a family who had resided as distinguished gentry at a venerable mansion for 120 years, and who now hold a high place about the court (of whose arms I know nothing of the origin), but who had the weakness lately to make an entry, which gave an opportunity to Sir Isaac Heard to force upon them a new coat; by which, as far as a herald's nobility can go, they put themselves posterior in date to some of the lowest of the people.*”

*Lex Terræ, p. 179.*

This censure of a proper and honourable feeling (which has been acted upon for centuries in this country, and, more especially from the commencement of heraldic visitations in the reign of Henry VIII., by some of the most respectable as well as ancient families) was doubtless written by sir S. E. Brydges in a fit of repentance, that he had, six years before, been guilty of precisely the same “weakness,” in applying, namely, to the Heralds' College to have an entry made of his pedigree from his grandfather,

and to solicit the grant of a coat of arms. It will be seen, on reference to the blazon of the armorial ensigns then assigned to him,\* that the variations from the old coat and crest of Bridges, were made by Sir Isaac Heard, with the good-nature and urbanity which distinguished him in his official, as well as private life, and for the exercise of which in his favour, the grantee has shown himself to be most ungrateful, by the unmerited insult which he has heaped upon his memory.

HERALDS' IGNORANCE.—“ *The pedigree of Astley shews the little trust to be put in the visitation-books of heralds. In the visitation of Kent in 1619, John Astley is called JEST MASTER to queen Elizabeth instead of master of the jewel-office, a mistake which probably arose from confounding his office with that of his son, Sir John, who was master of the revels.*”

*Lex Terræ, p. 258.*

The displeasure of the learned baronet falls heavily upon the unfortunate body of heralds, whenever an occasion seems to him to occur for their castigation. If, however, he had, in this instance, looked before he struck, he would have seen that the heralds used the term *magister jocalium*, *master of the jewels*, the office which John Astley held. The translation JEST-MASTER is Sir Egerton's own.

\* Appendix n. XXIII.

ORDER OF ST. JOACHIM.—“ *My name was not entirely unknown abroad ; for the order of St. Joachim was conferred on me in November 1807, without my ever having even heard of it, till I received Sir Levet Hanson’s letter two or three months afterwards. What had been accepted by lord Nelson in all his glory, could not, I thought, be refused by me. But much ill-will was, as usual, vented on this trifling occasion. I wore the ribbon in spite of these detractors and vilifiers, and wear it now.*”

*Autobiog. vol. i. 215-6.*

It is hard to conceive, by whom ill-will could have been borne to sir S. E. Brydges, for having, with his high pretensions, deigned to accept a decoration, if such it be, which had been unknown in Europe before lord Nelson was flattered into the acceptance of it.

When the king’s permission was, in 1802, solicited for the noble admiral to avail himself of this boon, some apprehension was entertained lest future inconvenience might have arisen from giving, by such a recognition, a certain sanction to an Order of so inferior a description as not to have been ever heard of at the British court. Upon an official inquiry into the history and character of the fraternity, it then appeared, that it had been set on foot, in 1755, by an association of younger members of some princely and noble houses in Germany, who at first called themselves by the strange, almost blasphemous title of “Knights of the Order of Defenders of the Honour of Divine Providence,”—that Francis, one of the princes of



Saxe-Cobourg, was the first grand-master elected by the association—that he resigned in 1773—and that, upon the death of the second grand-master, the count de Montfort, 1780, George-Charles-Lewis count of Leiningen-Westerbourg was elected grand-master, under whose presidency, in 1785, the title of the Order was changed to that of “St. Joachim, the blessed father of the holy Virgin Mary.” Upon the death of the count, in 1787, the office was conferred upon his son, Charles Gustavus, who, having been deprived of his estates in Germany on the French invasion in 1793, under general Custine, was conducted a prisoner to Paris, and died there in the abbaye of St. Germain in June 1798; when he was succeeded in the dignity of grand-master by his son Ferdinand-Charles count of Leiningen, who, in 1802, held the office.

The affairs of the *soi-disant* order were, for many years, administered by Levett Hanson, esq., a gentleman of Yorkshire, who resided entirely abroad, adopted the style of “*Sir*,” and transported the chancery and archives of the order from city to city. Having succeeded in inducing Lord Nelson to enter into the brotherhood, the royal licence permitting his lordship so to do, with some account of the Order, was printed and circulated, and subsequently embodied in a more general work which appeared under the title of “Hanson’s Orders of Knighthood.” It was long understood, that *moyennant* a certain not inconsiderable deposit at a banking-house in Pall-mall, the distinction was at the service of any one who might have a fancy for it; and that letters-missive were soon forthcoming from *Sir* Levett, containing due notification of election by the

“ equestrian, secular, and chapteral Order,” at its last sitting at Bamberg, Hamburgh, Lubeck, or wherever that personage happened, at the time, to be domiciliated.

The acceptance of such a decoration by Sir Egerton could not furnish matter for “ detraction or vilification ;” but, had any notice been taken of it, it would have been a mere expression of surprise, that he should have used, for some space of time before he was created a baronet, the style of “ *SIR* Egerton Brydges, K. J.” in virtue of a distinction not conferred by a sovereign prince, and for the reception of which he had received no licence from his own sovereign.

HERALDRY RUN MAD! — “ *In the recapitulation of blood I am about to make, I am entirely sensible how unpalatable the topic will be to many.*”—“ *And now I come to the summary of that of which my own blood is made up.*”—“ *I am not merely contending for equality, but for superiority.*”—*Autobiog. Vol. 2. Chap. XII.*

THE writer’s descent is then asserted, in terms the most pompous and egotistic, from Charlemagne, “ whose blood has flowed in his veins” through no less than two hundred and fifty-two different channels ; enriched, in its course, by multitudinous in-pourings from nearly all the tributary streams of the modern dynasties of Europe ; all the chief branches of the royal houses of the Conqueror, Plantagenet, and Tudor ; and, at the least, fifty-four great Anglo-Norman families in the possession of earldoms.

We cannot follow him through such a maze ; but are

willing to allow, that all these heraldic riches devolved to the learned baronet's maternal grandfather, the reverend William Egerton, prebendary of Canterbury, &c. who was the great-grandson of John Egerton, first earl of Bridgewater, by the lady Frances Stanley, daughter and co-heir of Ferdinando Stanley, earl of Derby, by Alice, daughter of Sir John Spencer, of Althorpe; Ferdinando having been son to Henry Stanley earl of Derby, by lady Margaret Clifford, the great-granddaughter of King Henry VII.

We may not, however, abandon to him the quiet possession of the field of "*superiority*" on which he supposes himself triumphant, without reminding him that those who have the good fortune to derive their descent from William Stanley, earl of Derby, the next brother and heir male of earl Ferdinando, have (*in addition to* all the glories, which Sir Egerton participates with many, of his descent from the Stanleys,) two lines of far greater brilliancy than those which he boasts to be without equal.

The duke of Atholl, and the earls of Dunmore, Gallo-way, and Aboyne, are descended from James Stanley, seventh earl of Derby, by Charlotte de la Tremouille; and James was son and heir to William Stanley, sixth earl of Derby, K. G. by the lady Elizabeth de Vere; William being second son to the same lady Margaret Clifford.

Lady Elizabeth de Vere was daughter to Edward, the seventeenth earl of Oxford of that illustrious race, by Anne Cecil, daughter of William lord Burghley; and she was paternally of unquestionably one of the first magnate Anglo-Norman families.

But Charlotte de la Tremouille, was perhaps one of the

most highly-born ladies of her period. She was the daughter of Claude de la Tremouille, duc de Thouars, prince de Talmont, by Charlotte of Nassau, daughter of William I. prince of Orange, (assassinated at Delft, in 1584,) by Charlotte of Bourbon, daughter of Louis duc de Montpensier.

Her grandmother, on the paternal side, was Jeanne de Montmorency, daughter of the celebrated constable of France, Anne duc de Montmorency, K. G. by Magdalen of Savoy.

Her great-grandmother, on the same side, was Anne, heiress of Laval, daughter of Vidus XVI. Comte de Laval, by Charlotte of Arragon, daughter of Frederick king of Naples, by Anne of Savoy.

Through the house of Savoy, the countess of Derby was descended from Charles VII. of France, Philip duke of Burgundy, the kings of Cyprus, Palæologi, emperors of the east, &c. &c.

As to the descent from Charlemagne, it is well known to all in any degree conversant with the study of genealogy, that there are few families of respectable antiquity in the kingdom, who may not, with equal truth, claim that mighty monarch for their ancestor. For, if reliance can be placed upon the sources, from which the pedigrees of distinguished families in the early ages are compiled, and the authority of which the careful student feels himself bound to verify step by step in his progress; we must assume that Eleanor of Provence, the consort of Henry III. was a descendant of the great emperor: if that fact be admitted, (and we only mention, as an example, one of the very many springs which invite the touch, and are of similar power,)

such an innumerable host of pretenders might appear to share this precious blood with Sir Egerton, that, we fear, the pure imperial stream which flows in his veins would be diminished to a globule !

MALE STOCK. — “ *All that strikes me is this — that a dis-  
tinguished female descent will not do unless there is  
an honourable male stock to graft it upon.* ” — *Auto-  
biog.* vol. ii. 135.

“ *There must be a good male stock to graft those  
alliances upon. A mongrel breed is apt to show its  
bad crosses.* ” — *Ibid.* p. 176.

“ *The number of existing peers who are derived  
from the male stocks of the Anglo-Norman barons  
is very few. I derive myself from one of those male  
stocks.* ” — *Ibid.* p. 183.

The male stock here alluded to is of course the stock of à Bruges or Bridges, from which the lords Chandos were derived, and of which Sir S. E. B. assumes that he is a scion—Q. E. D.

But, even in that case, how happens it that the old derivation, by Collins in his peerage, of Sir Simon à Brugge from Roger de Montgomeri, earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, which was abandoned as untenable by Sir S. E. Brydges in his edition of that peerage, should, in his anger against the existing peers, be now revived ? There is certainly no ground for maintaining it.

DIMINUTION OF RANK. — “ *If the claimant, or his father, had sunk into the rank of a cobbler, how would this have affected the inheritance of a peerage? I believe that one of the lords Willoughby of Parham was a common soldier when the title fell to him—another a cutler!* ”—*Lex Terræ*, p. 29.

This remark was, apparently, made in order to meet an objection which cannot fail to occur upon a consideration of the claimant's pretensions, namely, the rank in society of his great-grandfather John Bridges of Canterbury, and of Edward the father of John. Numerous instances have, in truth, been found of the gradual descent of the collateral members of noble families into the lower ranks of life. In the case of Willoughby of Parham, which has been mentioned as an example of such degeneracy, the degenerated branch had suspended all intercourse with the parent stock, and had taken root in the other hemisphere: in the case, however, of the claimant to the barony of Chandos, the supposed diminution of rank and condition must have happened within the immediate view of those to whom such a mutation of circumstances in near relatives must have been peculiarly displeasing. It may safely be averred that such an extraordinary transition from the higher to a, comparatively, very humble station was in the greatest degree improbable.

We find Edward Bridges, of Ospringe and Feversham, long previous to the decease of his alleged father and aunt—who were the distinguished children of the son of a peer of the realm and otherwise highly connected—most un-

accountably in the quiet and, seemingly, contented possession of an inferior rank, and in habits of familiar intimacy, as is proved by his recorded acts, with other persons of the same apparent station. We find his son, John, first serving an apprenticeship to an obscure, although no doubt in his own line respectable, tradesman ; afterwards marrying his master's daughter, and, a second time, the daughter of another tradesman of the same business ; and, finally, passing a long and industrious life in the acquisition of wealth which was inherited by his more distinguished descendants. Other claimants to titles or estates have presented themselves from the lower ranks ; but the facts have generally proved, that the circumstances, which led to their temporary degradation, would admit of much more satisfactory explanation than in the present instance. The offspring of a noble family, sunk, from whatever cause, into a state of poverty and obscurity, may be reasonably supposed to postpone the assertion of his birthright until the near prospect of a substantial inheritance arouses him into action ; but no such immediate hope is necessary to impel a family, collaterally noble, and re-possessed, after a season of indigent depression, of wealth and gentility, to re-establish, in the estimation of the world, the ancient splendour of its name.

It does not appear that the members of this family were ever in fact indigent : their wealth was always fully commensurate with their *real* rank and station in life : Edward, the yeoman, was respectably endowed, and is not alleged to have misconducted himself in any way, so as to justify or account for his extraordinary diminution of rank : John, the grocer, accumulated considerable property : his son

John was liberally educated and possessed the rank of a gentleman: his son Edward, the claimant's father, married a lady highly connected, and, with his unmarried elder brother, enjoyed the possession of a considerable landed estate: — and there appear, under all the circumstances, to have been sufficient motives for asserting the pretensions to a noble origin long before the supposed duty devolved upon the claimant and his brother, if the family had really felt itself entitled to advance, or able to support, such pretensions.

LATIN VERSION OF THE CHANDOS CLAIM. — “ *Antonius*  
 “ *pater fuit Roberti Bridges de Maidstone, in comi-*  
 “ *tatu Cantiano armigeri, qui genuit Edwardum, pa-*  
 “ *trem Johannis de civitate Cantuariensi, nati 1634,*  
 “ *mortui 1699. Ex quo Johannes, de Wootton in agro*  
 “ *Cantiano, qui nupsit Janam Gibbon et pater fuit*  
 “ *Edwardi, qui obiit 1780, et genuit, ex Jemima*  
 “ *Egerton, Samuelem Egerton Brydges, baronettum,*  
 “ *natum 30 Nov. 1762.*” — *Lex Terræ, p. 246.*

The above extra-judicial acknowledgment of the assumed dignity is to be met with, in the multifarious “*Lex Terræ,*” in the shape of a supplement by the author, (upon the plan adopted for a similar purpose in his edition of Collins's Peerage,) to the text of Imhoff, in a part of *Hist: Geneal: regum pariumque Magnæ Britann:* published at Nuremberg in 1690; and is strikingly illustrative of the indefa-



tigable baronet's passion for promulgating his claim in every conceivable mode and form.

Imhoff, under the article "*Bruges, Baro Chandos*," had given a brief account of that noble family, extracted from Dugdale; the object of which is the same as that of the pedigree, before alluded to,\* amongst the Harleian MSS. namely, to exhibit the ancestry of the individual in the possession of the title at the period of the compilation: both noticing, in the same way, Anthony, as a younger son of the first baron, without inserting his descendants.

Sir Egerton, for the instruction of those persons into whose hands his "*Lex Terræ*," printed on the Continent, may fall, and "who," he says, "understand Latin better than English," has, in the one case, supplied the defect by a close imitation of the neat latin style of Imhoff; and it is a remarkable, though of course purely accidental, coincidence, that some ingenious unknown should have, in the other, rendered a like service in informing posterity that Anthony had a grandson named Edward; and given the superinduced entry in a hand-writing which closely resembles that of the original manuscript.

\* See p. 201.



**APPENDIX.**



APPENDIX  
TO  
THE CHANDOS CASE.

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I.

*On the presumed failure of Heirs Male from Edmund, the second  
Lord Chandos. P. 1.*

WILLIAM, the second son of Edmund and the fourth Lord Chandos, died in 1602, leaving, besides Grey, his eldest son and successor in the barony, two sons, Giles and William. Giles was knighted in 1616, and died in the parish of St. Giles in the Fields in 1628 without issue, having in his will, dated 6th April 1624, mentioned his brother *William* Bridges, of London, esquire, and that the said William had then *two* sons living. *Of the fate of William and his sons no certain information exists;* and, after the unfortunate error in the case of the barony of Willoughby of Parham, it would be unsafe to infer the extinction of male issue from these individuals between 1624 and 1676, because in the latter year a writ of summons issued to the heir male of the second line. Sir Giles Bridges, of Wilton, in his will in 1634, mentions *Robert* and *William* Bridges, of Wilton, gentlemen, brothers, and their sister Elizabeth. Who were these Robert and William, and what became of them? were they the two sons of William of London mentioned in 1624? It has been conjectured that they might have been sons of Anthony: but his daughter Elizabeth Braine had died long before that date.

## II.

*The family-name of the Wife of Anthony Bridges was Fortescue.*

P. 2.

There is a strong presumption that the wife of Anthony Bridges was *Katherine*, eldest daughter of Henry Fortescue, of Falkborne in the county of Essex, esquire, who died in 1576, arising from the following fact:—Judith Fortescue, of St. Dunstan's in the west, London, spinster, the daughter of Dudley Fortescue, and granddaughter of the said Henry Fortescue, by her will, dated in 1629, gave a legacy of thirty pounds to her "*cousin Anne Bridges*," who was probably the individual described in the will of Sir John Astley, ten years afterwards, as the niece of the Lady Astley, (also named *Katherine*, and probably after her mother,) and therefore granddaughter to Anthony Bridges.

## III.

*Tristram and Thomas, two younger Brothers of Sir Giles Bridges.*

P. 3.

Charles Bridges, of Wilton, son of the first Lord Chandos, had two younger sons, Tristram and Thomas, of whose extinction no positive evidence was submitted to the Lords Committees. It has, however, since been ascertained that the former died without issue, and the latter without issue male. About the latter end of 1646, Frances and Jane Bridges, daughters of Sir Giles, the elder brother of Tristram and Thomas, exhibited in Chancery their bill of complaint against the executors of their father's will for non-payment of their respective legacies. The bill alleges, *inter alia*, that their father had been seised of an annuity during the lives of his younger brothers, Thomas and Tristram; that after their father's death, the acting executor had received this annuity until the deaths of Thomas and Tristram; that Thomas died in *October* then last past, and Tristram in October in the twenty-first year of the king; that Thomas had left three daughters his coheirs,

viz. Elinor, Debora, and Katherine, and that Tristram died without issue. Thomas is presumed to have been the same Thomas Bridges who was buried at Peterstow 19th *Sept.* 1646. He had, besides the three daughters abovementioned, a daughter Beata, who died in 1639 unmarried, and of whose will, proved at Hereford, her sister Elinor was executrix.

## IV.

*Funeral Escocheons found in Wootton House.* P. 8.

It was asserted, upon the authority of these paintings, that the claimant's great-grandfather, John Bridges, who died in 1699, and his son John, both bore the Chandos arms; but the use of a coat of arms was never yet deemed to be conclusive *proof* of descent, and it has been matter of complaint, ever since any system has been observed in heraldry, that the arms of noble and other families were usurped by persons who had no other pretensions to them than the sameness of surname. A respectable family of the name of Brydges has been seated at Tibberton, in Herefordshire, and in that neighbourhood, for two centuries past: being called upon, at the last heralds' visitation of that county in 1683, to enter their pedigree and arms, they produced the arms of the Chandos family, though with another crest, with the distinction of the second son of the fourth house; upon which the entering herald made this note: "As to the arms of Bridges, they are respited for further proof, it not appearing that this family is related to those of the Ley," (a branch of the Chandos stock, but separated long before the peerage,) "or to any other who have right to these arms, nor so reputed by the gentry of the country."—K. 6, fo. 41, in Coll. Armor. A descendant, through a female, from the Tibberton family, lately succeeding to the estate, and having been directed to take the name and arms, an investigation of the right thereto took place; when it was clearly proved, and the proofs put upon record, that the family in question derived its origin from a family of *Bridge*, to which arms totally different

from those of the Chandos family had been granted in the reign of James the First, together with the identical crest which they had inconsistently borne above the Chandos coat, as if to preserve the means of the more readily detecting the usurpation. The ancient coat and crest of Bridge were accordingly exemplified on this occasion to the name of Brydges, which had been adopted by this family in the early part of the reign of Charles II.

In Romsey church there is a handsome monument with the arms of the Chandos family, without any distinction, and the inscription expressly mentions that the George Bridges there named was of a collateral branch of the Chandos family; yet, upon an examination, no authority has been discovered for the assertion.

In Harwich church, on a tombstone for one William Bridges, esq., commander of the royal yacht the *Mary*, who died in 1743, are the arms of the Chandos family, with a *crescent* for difference. If those arms were to be admitted as a proof of his descent, then the issue of this person, being of the *second* branch, would have had a prior right to the claimant. Numberless other instances might be adduced of similar assumptions, whilst no monumental inscriptions for any of the claimant's family were produced with the arms thereon, unless it be admitted that Thomas Bridges, esq. (mentioned in the Harbledown Pedigree, under No. 12), in whose memory a monument was erected at St. Nicholas at Wade in 1777, with the Chandos arms thereon, was, as stated in that Pedigree, related to the claimant. Many deeds, and three original wills of the family, were put in evidence, but without having been sealed with the arms in question.

## V.

*Arms of Ockman.* P. 8.

It is true that John Bridges, the claimant's great grandfather, "married into the Ockman family;" *i. e.* he, being himself a grocer at Canterbury, married the daughter of Mr. Ockman, also a grocer there, with whom he had served his apprenticeship, and who, having been mayor of the city, was styled



“ Thomas Ockman, Esq. ;” but it would not be possible to show that Ockman had any right to the arms alluded to.

## VI.

*Will of John Bridges, the Claimant's Great-grandfather.* P. 12.

Great unwillingness was manifested to the production of this document, evidently from an apprehension that it might lead to some discovery of the true ancestry of the testator. At the following hearing of the 15th April 1794, Mr. Egerton Brydges was asked whether he had found any deeds or wills relating to the family prior to the year 1704. To which he answered, “ I recollect seeing a copy of a will of my great-grandfather John.” “ Have you made any search for that will ?” “ No, I have not : having seen that copy some years back, I did not concern myself about making search for it.” However, on the 21st April 1795, two deeds were produced, to which this John Bridges, described “ of the city of Canterbury, grocer,” was a party, the one dated in 1659 and the other in 1684 ; and from the arch-deacon's court at Canterbury the original will of the said John Bridges, dated 3d May and proved 22d December 1699. The inconvenience of producing the latter document at the fifth hearing arose principally from the circumstance that the will contains a legacy to the testator's “ loving sister Mary, the wife of Symon Millen ;” and, as the fact was well known that Edward Bridges, the father, had been personally consenting to the marriage of his daughter with Millen in 1662, it was clear that such a fact would annul the presumption attempted to be, for a most important object, raised during this fifth hearing, that Edward had died in 1646.

## VII.

*The Owe or Ore Transcript.* P. 13.

[Extracted from the Registry of the Consistory Court of  
Canterbury.]

A Coppie and Bill of Register of all such Christnings,  
Marriages, and Burials, as happened to be in the Parish

of Ore, in the Archdeaconry of Canterbury, from the Feast of the Annuntiation in the year 1640 to the same Feast anno 1641, viz.

Bapt., Richard, the Sonne of John and Elizabeth Lawrence,  
Julie 19.

Bapt., William, y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of Samuel and Alice Luson, Julie 26.

Bapt., Elizabeth, y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Mathew and Anne Dickeson,  
Aug. 9.

Bapt., John, y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of Ralph and Anne Peeson, Decemb. 6.

Bapt., Thomas, the Sonne of Thomas Vile and Barbara his wife,  
Decemb. 13.

Bapt., Elizabeth, y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Andrew and Anne Winne,  
Jan. 17.

Bapt., Richard, y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of John and Katherine Philpot,  
March 9.

*Bapt., Ashley, the Sonne of Mr. William Best and Anne his  
wife, March 14.*

Bapt., Philip, the Sonne of Thomas and Susan Duman, March 19.

*Married, William Best, gent. and Anne Bridges of Maydeston,  
May 1.*

Married, George Finch and Anne Upton, June 30.

Married, Abraham Luson and Mary Taylor, Nov. 26.

Married, Samuel Thomas and Amie Hewel, Jan. 14.

Married, George Iles and Elizabeth Green, Jan. 14.

Buried, John Thomas, April 12.

Buried, John, the Sonne of John and Isabel Hamon, May 17.

Buried, Thomas Okeshott, May 24.

Buried, John Howell, Octb. 11.

Buried, William Penial, Octob. 13.

Buried, Elizabeth Okeshott, Octob. 24.

Buried, Samuel, y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of Amie Howell, Novemb. 15.

Buried, John Bird, Decemb. 24.

ROBT. MILLES, Curat. ibid.

RICHARD PRICE, Churchwarden.

Examined, THOMAS DICKES, Registrar.

## VIII.

*The Maidstone Register.* P. 14.

From a very careful inspection of the above record in October 1826, the compiler of these sheets is enabled to state that the entry, which purports to record the baptism of Edward and Anne Bridges, is an evident insertion of modern time. In support of this opinion, it will be necessary to remark, that the volume itself is seemingly a fair transcript, made periodically, and after considerable intervals, from some rough book, or minutes, of the transactions as they had occurred; and authenticated, at the foot of each page, by the signatures of the minister and two churchwardens for the time being. The entries are numbered in the margin at the end of each; and, where more than one baptism, marriage, or burial had occurred on the same day, the record of them is inclosed in a bracket; the numbers being placed on the exterior side of such bracket. During the preceding reign, the transcriber had usually divided the parochial occurrences into years of the reign, with a title to each year; but, after the termination of the reign of Elizabeth—which is thus noted:—

“ Anno domini 1602  
finis regni  
Elizabethæ  
Robert Car minister”—

the division is, for some time, into years of the Christian era. The signatures being, generally, close to the last entry, at the bottom of each page, it was more convenient, for the purpose of making the interpolation in question, to use the space at the end of some year, which, however, had been usually filled by the signature of the minister and the title of the following year, thus :

“ Robert Car minister  
The year of our lord 1604  
and in the second year of the  
king’s most excellent majesty.”

There appear to have been one hundred and seventeen baptisms in the year 1603. The last four, on the 25th of March, had accordingly been inclosed by a bracket. The former entries, 116 and 117, have evidently been *erased* in order to admit the adscititious entry upon the space which they had occupied; and the relative numbers, 116 and 117, together with the original bracket, were left to denote that two individuals were baptised at the same time. The name of the minister having probably been also erased, the space of the erasure is further filled up by these words —

“ Finis istius anni 1603” —

which is a *manifest interpolation*, and the only instance of such a note, but *necessary* for the purpose of covering the space upon which the erasure had been made; it having been found convenient to introduce the entry of the baptism in *one* line, thus :—

*Edward and Anne son and daughter of Robert Bridges Esquire.*

It is to be observed that, in *all* the other baptismal entries of that year, the surname follows immediately the christian name of the person baptised, as in the two preceding entries *on the same day*, thus—

“ Nicholas Rouse son to Marmed. Rouse.”

“ Mercia Thomas Daught. to William Thomas Junior.”

The interpolated entry presents a single instance of deviation from that custom, for the obvious reason that, if “ Bridges” had been inserted after “ Edward and Anne,” the whole entry could not have been made in one line.

The counsel for the claimant, in his argument upon the Maidstone register, observed that it was a copy made many years subsequently to the year 1603, viz. about 1616.

Where then, it may be asked, was the necessity of *interlining* the entry of the baptism of Edward and Anne?—and would such entry not have been made in the same hand in which the other parts of the register were copied? whereas, the handwriting is quite dissimilar to that of the other entries.

## IX.

*Substance of the Proceedings in the Prerogative Court relative to the Grant of Administration of the Effects of Dame Catherine Astley, translated from the Record since removed from Doctors' Commons to Lambeth Palace.*

Act-book, 1648.

Fo. 451. On 13 May 1648, before Sir Nathaniel Brent, LL. D., Master or Keeper of the Court of Prerogative, a suit for a grant of administration of the goods, &c. of Dame Catharine Astley, late of Maidstone, in the County of Kent, widow, deceased, promoted by John Bridges, cousin-german and next of kin of the said deceased, against the Right Honourable Frances, Countess Dowager of Exeter.

Gaell. Francklyn.

On which day Gaell exhibited his procuracy for John Bridges, and alleged that the said Dame Catharine Astley, about four months last past, died intestate, and that said John Bridges is "consobrinus (*anglicè*, cousin-german)" and next of kin of the said deceased, and so commonly reputed to be, viz. that the father of the said John and the father of the said Lady Astley were, whilst living, natural and lawful brothers, and so reputed to be, and therefore prayed letters of administration of the goods, &c. of said Dame Catharine to be granted to said John upon proper bond, &c.

Francklyn exhibited his procuracy for the Right Honourable Frances, Countess Dowager of Exeter, and, after protesting against Gaell's allegation, for that the party of Gaell is not connected by any degree of consanguinity with the deceased, the said Francklyn alleged that the said Frances, Countess Dowager of Exeter, was and is the next of kin of the said Dame Catharine, viz. that the grandfather of the said Frances and the father of the said Dame Catharine were, whilst living, natural and lawful brothers, and so commonly reputed to be, and therefore prayed letters of administration, &c. to be granted to her the said Frances, &c.

- Fo. 459. 15 May 1648. Francklyn produced for his party two witnesses, Phillippa Savage and Susanna Masculine, who were received and sworn.
- Fo. 468. 30 May 1648. The witnesses produced by Francklyn were examined, and copies of the depositions decreed to the parties.
- Fo. 508. 16 June 1648. Gaell alledged that he had witnesses for his party which he could not conveniently bring before this court, and therefore prayed a commission for their examination.
- Fo. 537. 27 June 1648. The court, on the petition of Gaell, decreed a commission to sit for the examination of his witnesses in the parish church of Cirencester, in the county of Gloucester, on the 3d, 4th, and 5th of October next, with leave to adjourn, &c.

## Act-book, 1648-1649.

- Fo. 6. 24 Oct. 1648. Gaell repeated his allegation and prayed answer by Francklyn as to the intention of his party, and why he desired letters of administration, &c. Francklyn exhibited his procuracy for a certain Nicholas Alexander, and constituted himself party for him, and alledged that Gaell ought not to have his suit, for that the deceased, being of sane mind, made her last will, and bequeathed all or the greatest part of her goods to the said Nicholas; and he thereupon prayed a term to be assigned for producing such will, when the court assigned the second session from thence.
- Fo. 37. 4 November 1648. Dyer prayed that said Alexander, the party of Francklyn, be enjoined to propound the will of the deceased, the administration of whose goods, &c. as having died intestate, he contended should be, under sufficient surety, granted to Bridges. But the court assigned Francklyn to exhibit the will at the next session.
- Fo. 67. 22 November 1648. Gaell prayed administration to be granted to Bridges, Francklyn dissenting, &c. and praying a further term for propounding the will, Gaell

dissenting and protesting nullity, &c. and that a further term may not lawfully be assigned for producing it. But the court *ex gratiâ* assigned for propounding the same the next sitting before three o'clock, without hope of further postponement, &c. Gaell dissenting.

Fo. 83. 2 December 1648. Gaell prayed as before, Francklyn dissenting and praying that the prayer of Gaell might be reiterated, &c.: whereupon the court, on the petition of Gaell, decreed letters of administration of the goods, &c. of the deceased to be granted upon surety, &c. in form accustomed, &c. Francklyn dissenting.

On the 18th January 1648-9, a commission issued to John Bridges, cousin-german of Dame Catharine Astley, late of Maidstone, in the county of Kent, deceased, &c. to administer the goods, rights, and credits of the said deceased, *de bene*, &c.

## X.

*Extracts of two entries in the Herald-painter's Work-book, &c. marked C. 3, referred to at page 30.*

Folio 30<sup>b</sup>.

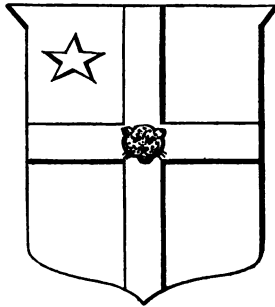
" Sr John Astley, K<sup>t</sup>., M<sup>r</sup>. of the Jewell-house and of the revels. He dep'ted this mortall life and his funerall was solemnized on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1639, at the great church of Maydstone by 3 officers of armes, M<sup>r</sup>. Ryly, M<sup>r</sup>. Croune, and M<sup>r</sup>. Dugdall.

" 9 doz. & 3" [escocheons, denoted by the sketch of a shield.]

Under the above entry there are sketches of the arms of the deceased in two escocheons, the one representing the quarterly coats of Astley and Constable, with the difference of the *crescent* or second house; and, above, the crest of Astley; the other the single coat of Astley, with the like difference, impaling the coat of the noble family of Bridges, differenced with a *mullet*.

Two leaves further in the same book, at folio 32<sup>b</sup>, there is the following entry, viz.:

*“ Mrs. Bridges dau. of Captaine Bridges 3 brother to the lord Shandos she dyed in fleet street er funerall Sermon was at St. Brids on Tusday night & her corps carried from thence to St. faths under Pauls the same night the the 9 of November 1641.”*



### XI.

Extract from Dugdale's *St. Paul's Cathedral*, p. 125, of the following, amongst other inscriptions which were, in that author's time, extant in the Undercroft of St. Faith, upon tombs containing the remains of Elizabeth (Grey) widow of the first Lord Chandos, and of her great-grandchildren the two sons of Lady Astley.

“ In ecclesia S. Fidis

In orientali parte hujus ecclesiæ.

Here buried ys Elizabethhe, of honour worthy Dame,  
Her husband erst Lord Shandoys was, her sonne hath now like  
name.

Her father was of Wilton Lord, a Grey of puissant fame,  
Her brother left with us behinde, now Lord is of the same.  
Her vertuous lyfe yet still doth live, her honour shall remaine,  
Her corps, though it be growne to dust, her soule the heavens  
containe.

Quæ obiit 29 die decembris anno Domini 1559.”



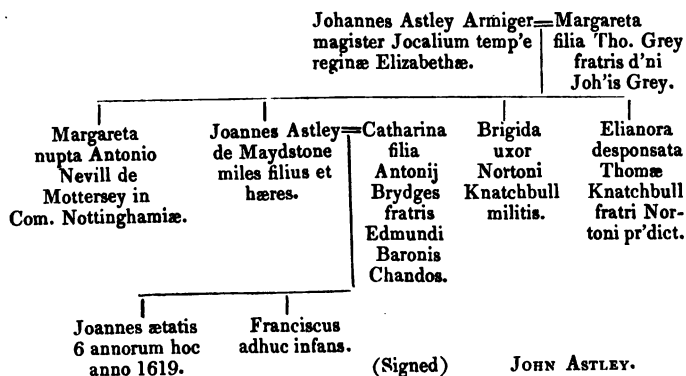
“ Super alium [tumulum] ibid.”

[“ In superiori parte ejusdem Ecclesiæ orientem versus.”]

“ Under this stone lye buried the bodies of John and Francis Astley the sons of Sir John Astley of Allington Castle in the county of Kent Master of the Revels and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber in ordinary to Charles the I<sup>st</sup>.

“ In obitum immaturum Johannis & Francisci Astley filiorum domini Johannis Astley equitis aurati quorum hic undecem alter duo deviginti annos natus ad superos migravit utrique vero sub eodem marmore tumulantur.”

Extract from the Heralds' Visitation book of the County of Kent, anno 1619, marked C 16 fo. 46<sup>b</sup>, remaining in the Heralds' College.



## XII.

*The Will of Ann Jackson alias Bridges, from the original, preserved in the Prerogative Office, London, and produced in evidence, see page 31.*

In the Name of God, Amen. The Twelveth Daie of *October Anno Dm.* 1641, and in the Seaventeenth Yeare of the Reigne of o<sup>r</sup> Sovereigne Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, Kinge of *England, Scotland, Fraunce, and Ireland*, Defend<sup>r</sup> of the Faith, &c. I *Ann Jackson*, alias *Bridges*, of *London*, Widowe (beinge sick in Body, but of good and p<sup>r</sup>fect Minde and Memory (praised

be God therefore), doe make and ordaine this my p<sup>r</sup>sent Testament, declaring therein my last Will and Minde in Manner and Forme following ; (that is to say), First and principally I com'end my Soule into the hands of Almighty God my Creator, stedfastly beleeevinge to have a free Remission for all my Sinns, by and through the Merritts, Death, and Passion, of my only Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus, and by and through him to be made Pertaker of eternall Happiness p<sup>r</sup>pared for the Elect in the Kingdome of Heaven ; and my Body I com'itt to the Earth from whence it came, in Hope of a blessed Resurreccion : and concerninge the disposinge of my temporall Blessings, wherewith it hath pleased God to blesse mee ; I give and bequeath the same in Manner and Forme followinge ; (that is to say), First, I give and bequeath to my Aunt the Lady *Astley*, for to buy her Mourninge, the Sume of Tenn Poundes. Item, I give and bequeath to my Uncle Mr. *Thomas Bond*, for to buy him a Ringe, the Sume of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Cousine *Martha Bond*, for to buy her a Ringe, the Sume of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Cousine *Barbara Bond*, for to buy her a Ringe, the Sum of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Cousine *Edmond Morris*, of *London*, Draper, the Sume of Five Poundes. Item, I give and bequeath to my said Cousine *Edmond Morris* his wife, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy her a Ringe. Item, I give and bequeath to *Edmond Morris*, Sonne of the aforesaid *Edmond Morris*, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy him a Spooone. Item, I give and bequeath unto *Mary Morris*, Daughter of th' aforesaid *Edmond Morris*, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy her a Spooone. Item, I give and bequeath to the Poore of the Parishes of *Maidstone*, *Horton*, *Framingham*, and the Parish wherein my Corps shall be buried, the Sume of Tenn Poundes, to be distributed at the Discretion of my Executor and Overseer. And all the rest of my Goods and Chattells whatsoever, after my Legacies paid, and Funerall Charges discharged, I give and bequeath unto my Cousine *Thomas Bond*, of *London*, Doctor of Phisick, whome I make, nominate, and appointe, to be my sole and only Executor of this my last Will and Testa-

ment, prayinge and desiringe him to have a Care of the due and true Performance thereof, as my Trust is in him. And I also nominate and appointe the aforesaid *Edmond Morris* to be the Overseer of this my last Will and Testament, intreatinge him to be aydinge and assistinge to my said Executor in the p'formance of this my last Will. And lastly, my Will and Minde is, that all the severall Legacies afore bequeathed shall be paid vnto every of the said Legatees within One Yeare next after my Decease. In Testimony whereof, I the said *Ann Jackson*, alias *Bridges*, the Testatrix aforesaid, have sett my Hand and Seale the Day and Yeare first above written.

*Ann Jackson* alias *Bridges*.



Signed, sealed, published, and declared, by the Testatrix aboves'd, as her last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup>, in the P<sup>r</sup>esence of vs, *Thomas Webb*.—*Willi. Brend*.—*Edw. Deacon*, S<sup>r</sup>vant to Mr. *Blount*, Sc<sup>r</sup>.

Probatum apud *London* corā venābili viro *Will<sup>mo</sup> Sames* Legū Doctore Surrogato venābilis viri *Will<sup>mi</sup> Mericke*, Legū Doctoris Commissarii, &c. Sexto Die Mensis *Novembris*, Anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1641. Juramento *Thomæ Bond*, in Medicinis Doctoris ex<sup>r</sup>is, &c. cui &c. de bene, &c. Jurat.

## XIII.

*Extract from the Probate Act Book in the Archdeacon's Court at Canterbury, recording probate of the Will of John Bridges of Harbledown:—page 45.*

22 Januarij 1646 juxta &c. coram m<sup>ro</sup> Rich<sup>o</sup> Alleyne cl<sup>ico</sup> sub<sup>to</sup> &c. p<sup>nte</sup> Reg<sup>r</sup>' Dep<sup>r</sup> p<sup>d</sup>'.

Testamentum *Joh<sup>is</sup> Bridges* paro<sup>r</sup>. de *Harbledowne* Archi<sup>n</sup>at. Cant. def<sup>ti</sup> probatum fuit jura<sup>ti</sup> *Joh<sup>is</sup> Bridges* & *Thomæ Bridges* filiorū & executorū in eod. tes<sup>to</sup> no<sup>i</sup>'at' ac inde appro<sup>ta</sup>. & insinuat' &c. onusq' execuc<sup>o</sup>'is eiusd' com<sup>issu</sup>' est dict' ex<sup>b<sup>us</sup></sup> prius jurat' ad tacta &c. salvo jure &c. Invent. ex<sup>ta</sup>. est eod' die p' ex<sup>tes</sup> p<sup>d</sup>' &c. } sol'

## XIV.

*Extract from the Act Book in the registry at Canterbury, containing Record of Grant of Letters of Administration of the effects of John Bridges of St. Nicholas at Wade. P. 47.*

Die p<sup>ra</sup> (viz. 19 Mart. 1669.)

<p>Bonor' &amp;c. <i>Johannis Bridges</i> nup' p'o'iæ S<sup>u</sup> <i>Nicholai at Wade</i> in <i>Insula Thaneti Cant'</i> Dioc' ab intestato (ut dicitur) defunct' dum vixit Fil. &amp; legatar' no'i'at' in Testam<sup>to</sup> Joh'is Bridges sen' etiam defunct' Mr. Will'us Lovelace cl'ic, Surr'us &amp;c. p'nte me Paulo Lukin notar. Pub<sup>co</sup> assumpto &amp;c. com'isit ad'nem <i>Thomæ Bridges junior'</i> fr'i &amp;c. dict' defunct' prius jurat. &amp;c. salvo jure cuiuscumq' obl'tur cum eo <i>Joh'es Bridges</i> p'o'iæ S<sup>u</sup> <i>Andrei Cant' Grocer</i> et <i>Thomas Bridges</i> p'o'iæ S<sup>u</sup> <i>Nicholai at Wade</i> yeoman in 800<sup>u</sup>.</p>	<p>S<sup>u</sup> Nich. at Wade.</p> <p>Inv<sup>m</sup>. ex<sup>tum</sup>. est.</p> <p>Comp' 1673.</p> <p>per In<sup>ro</sup> in p'x' cur' post fest. Paschæ.</p>
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## XV.

*Copy of a Paper, presumed to be of the handwriting of Mr. Egerton Brydges, and delivered by him to Mr. Townsend between Sept. 1784 and Sept. 1789.*

From every circumstance that can be collected, the family were not in Kent before the time of Robert:—1st. from the registers of Ospringe and Faversham:—2nd. from the Will Office at Canterbury:—3rd. from other presumptive circumstances.

First, as to the registers of Ospringe and Faversham; the names of *Brigge* and *Bridge* first appear in them; one in 1607, the other in 1625, and *Brigge* ceases the moment *Bridge* begins.

Second, as to the Will Office, there is not one of the name of *Brigge* to be found there.

As we know from the above that the *Brigge's* were in Kent in 1607.—This is a presumption not only that they were not there before, and therefore must have *then* first come into Kent, but also that the *Brigge's* were the same as afterwards were written *Bridge*. For why does their name no more appear after 1607, when we know they were in Kent, than before it? It is easily to be accounted for by supposing it was changed into *Bridge* in conformity possibly to the name common in the county—which name written *Bridge* first appears in the Ospringe register 1625, when the other written *Brigge* disappears.

The presumption is then, from these circumstances, that the family first came into Kent about 1607.

But supposing the *Brigge's* were not the same as the *Bridge's*, many of the presumptions, that the family first came into Kent at that time, still remain.

As to the name of *Bridge* in the Will Office, though there were people of the name (who bore it probably from some local circumstance), yet we can find no ancestors there not having connexion with the above, as appears not only from not being able to make out any to them, and from tradition in the family, but also from our bearing the Chandos arms—whereas of them there are branches of descendants still remaining who bear different arms, such as water-bougets, &c.—a proof that their name was a local one, their arms having allusion and connexion with a *bridge*.

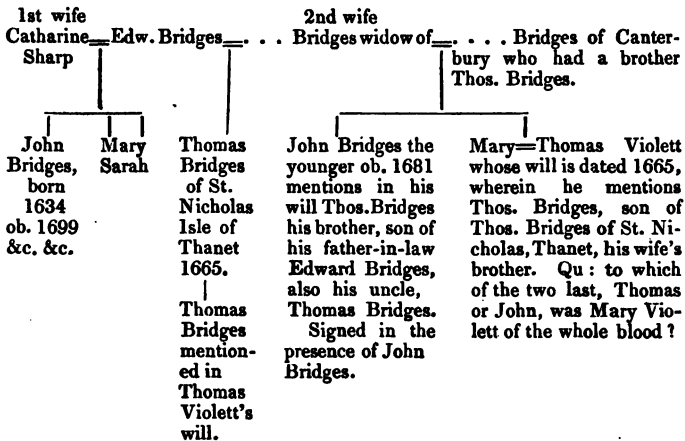
Third, as to the presumptive circumstances—among others there are these. We confessedly bore the arms we now bear from the time we suppose we came into Kent, viz. 1607, and most probably, from a number of family circumstances (besides the mullet for distinction, which must be referred up higher), they were not *then* first taken up, but borne earlier.

As a presumption of this—the arms were confessedly borne by Edward with this distinction, who was born ab<sup>t</sup> 1600—now as he bore them with a distinction he must have had them from his father, and have taken this distinction in them as 3rd. son, for no man first takes up arms

with a distinction on them. We will suppose his father born 1570, thirty years before his son. But, as we know not of Edward's having any brothers, the arms probably go at least a generation farther back, to his grandfather, and he, allowing him thirty years, was born about 1540.

Now if the arms were borne earlier than 1607, they must have been borne at a time that visitations were frequent. But they were not borne in Kent then, for they are not mentioned in the visitations; therefore the presumption is that the family were not in Kent earlier than this time.

## XVI.

*Conjectural Pedigree referred to at page 133.*

Under the above pedigree.

"Neither the will of Anthony Bridges, nor of Robert his son, is in the Will Office at Gloucester.

"The register of Shipton in Gloucestershire lost. A copy of that of Avening is promised to be sent me."

Then follow copies of Bridges inscriptions at Cirencester, Tewksbury, and Woodchester.

Then this memorandum.

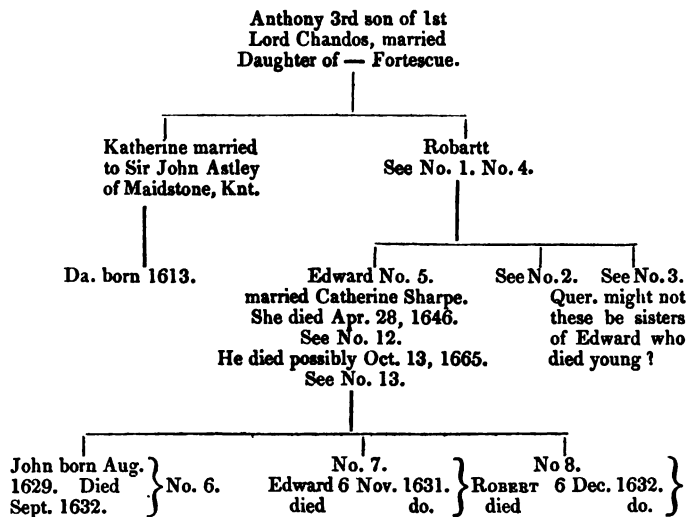
“ Ann Bridges, the sister of Edw<sup>d</sup> B. who mar<sup>d</sup> Catherine  
“ Sharpe, was buried at Feversham, Oct. 3, 1670.

“ Edw<sup>d</sup> B. was buried there 1665.

## XVII.

*Supposed pedigree referred to at page 135.*

Indorsement, on a paper apparently in the handwriting of Sir Egerton Brydges, containing extracts from the parish registers of Ospringe and Feversham, and a pedigree from John, his great grandfather, to himself and his brothers and sisters.



The numbers refer to the following entries from the Ospringe and Feversham registers, in the paper upon which the above pedigree is indorsed.

No. 1. July 25, 1607 Marie Brigge the wife of . . . . Brigge was buried—Osp. Reg<sup>r</sup>.

No. 2. Jan. 8, 1625 Avery Bridge was buried—Osp. Reg<sup>r</sup>

No. 3. Oct. 9, 1625 Sarah Bridge was buried—Fev. Reg<sup>r</sup>

No. 4. Jan. 12, 1626 The widow Bridge was buried—Osp. Reg<sup>r</sup>.

- No. 5. June 18, 1627 Edward Bridge and Catherine Sharpe were married—Fev. Reg<sup>r</sup>.
- N.B. This marriage appears too in the deed of some land in the parish of Luddenham in Kent, still in the family, which came from John the father of Catherine Sharpe, where John Bridges, eldest surviving son of Edw<sup>d</sup>, See No. 9, is mentioned as possessing it from his grandfather John Sharpe, in right of his mother Catherine.
- No. 6. Aug. 16, 1629 } John the son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge was bapt<sup>d</sup>  
O. R.
- Sept. 25, 1632 } John Bridge was buried. F. R.
- No. 7. Nov. 18, 1631 } An infant son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge was bapt<sup>d</sup>.  
O. R.
- Nov. 29, 1631 } Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge was buried. F. R.
- No. 8. Dec. 16, 1632 } ROBERT son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge was baptiz<sup>d</sup>  
O. R.
- Dec. 23, 1632 } ROBERT BRIDGES was buried. F. R.
- No. 9. Sept. 20, 1634 } John son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge and Catherine  
his wife born in Ospringe, but baptiz<sup>d</sup>  
in Feversham in the liberty whereof  
they are. O. R.
- Sept. 28, 1634 } John son of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge and Catherine  
(born in Ospringe) was baptiz<sup>d</sup>. F.R.
- No. 10. May 12, 1637 } Mary da: of Edw<sup>d</sup> and Catherine Bridge  
was baptiz<sup>d</sup>. F. R.
- N.B. She was afterwards mar<sup>d</sup> to Simon Millen, as appears by her Bro: John's will.
- No. 11. Dec. 13, 1640 } Sarah da. of Edw: and Catherine Bridge  
bapt. F. R.
- No. 12. Apr. 28, 1646 } Katherine wife of Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridge was  
buried. F. R.
- No. 13. Oct. 13, 1665 } Edw<sup>d</sup> Bridges (doubtful whether that  
was the name in the Register) buried.  
F. R.



## XVIII.

*Copy of Instructions for the Petition of the Rev. E. T. Brydges, received from Samuel Egerton Brydges, esq. by Mr. Townsend, Windsor Herald, in October 1789. P. 137.*

Hon. Anthony Bridges 3d son by his wife the daughter of — Fortescue left issue 2 daurs Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Brayne Esq<sup>r</sup>. of Gloucestershire Katherine the wife of Sir John Astley Kn<sup>t</sup> of the Palace in Maidstone & an only son & heir

Robert Bridges of Maidstone in Kent where his wife was buried Sept<sup>r</sup> 4th 1616 & he surviving her was buried Jul. 15. 1636 leaving issue a daughter Anne & an only son & heir

Edward Bridges of Ospringe in Kent who mar<sup>d</sup> June 18 1627 Catharine daur & heir of John Sharpe of Feversham in Kent (who died Apr. 28, 1648) He was buried in Feversham church Oct<sup>r</sup> 13 1665 having had issue by her two daughters Mary and Sarah and four sons

John Edward & Robert who died infants and John Bridges his surviving son & heir born at Ospringe Sept<sup>r</sup> 28. 1634 who married first the daughter of — Ockman Esq<sup>r</sup> & she dying issueless married secondly Mary Greenstreet who died at Canterbury Oct<sup>r</sup> 2. 1694 leaving issue by him

John his son & heir & Edward Thomas & Robert which three issueless but John Bridges the son & heir of Wootton Court in Kent born at Canterbury Oct<sup>r</sup> 11. 1680 was a Barrister at Law & married in 1704 Jane daughter & heir of Edward Gibbon Esq<sup>r</sup>. of Westcliffe in Kent (by Martha daughter & heir of Sir John Roberts Kn<sup>t</sup>) He died Jul. 15. 1712 æt 32 leaving issue by her two surviving sons & a daughter.

John Bridges Esq<sup>r</sup> of Wootton Court his son & heir was born Jul. 13. 1710 & dying at Wootton Court April 22d 1780 æt 70 unmarried was buried in Wootton church leaving

Edward Bridges Esq<sup>r</sup> of Wootton Court his brother & heir which Edward was born Jan: 15. 1712 & marr<sup>d</sup> Mar. 3. 1747 Jemima daughter & coheir of Will<sup>m</sup> Egerton LL.D. Prebendary of Canterbury &c (Grandson of John Earl of Bridgwater) He

died 19 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1780 æt 69 leaving issue 3 sons & 5 daughters viz.

Rev<sup>d</sup> Edward Tymewell Brydges now of Wootton Court his son & heir Samuel Egerton Brydges born in 1762 a Barrister at Law & John William Head Brydges Esq<sup>r</sup> now of the Middle Temple born 1764 at Wootton.

Which said Edward Tymewell Brydges born at Wootton May 29 1749 marr<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 17. 1785 Caroline daughter of Richard Fairfield Esq<sup>r</sup>. of Streatham in Surry.

## XIX.

*Persons of distinction, to whom Edward Bridges, described of Feversham Yeoman in three instruments in 1634-5, would have been nearly allied in blood, if son to Robert Bridges the brother of Lady Astley.*

*First Cousins of Robert Bridges.*

Catherine, wife of William lord Sandys, daughter of his uncle Edmund 2nd lord Chandos.

Sir Giles Bridges of Wilton bart., son of his uncle Charles Bridges, 2nd son of John 1st lord Chandos.

Anne, only child of Edward lord Dudley, and wife 1st to Sir Francis Throckmorton and 2d to Thomas Wilmer esq.

*Cousins-german, once removed, to Robert.*

Catherine, countess of Bedford, wife of Francis earl of Bedford, daughter and heir of Giles 3d lord Chandos.

Frances countess of Exeter, daughter of his cousin-german William 4th lord Chandos.

Joane, wife of Sir Ambrose Turvile } sisters to the Countess  
Beatrix, wife of Sir Henry Poole } of Exeter.

John viscount Tracy, son of his cousin-german Sir John Tracy, who was son to his aunt Elizabeth daughter of the 1st lord Chandos.

Dorothy, viscountess Conway.

Mary, wife of Horatio lord Vere.

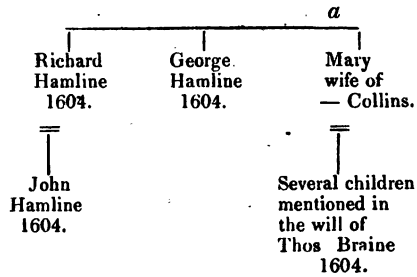
*Issue of cousins-german, once removed, to Robert.*

George Bridges 6th lord Chandos.	
Catherine, wife of Robert lord Brooke	} Issue of Catherine countess of Bedford above mentioned.
Anne countess of Bristol	
Margaret countess of Carlisle	
Diana lady Newport.	
Sir Giles Bray	} Issue of Dorothy vis- countess Conway above mentioned.
Edward viscount Conway	
Brilliana wife of Sir Robert Harley	
Mary countess of Westmoreland, wife of	} Issue of Mary lady Vere above mentioned.
Mildmay earl of Westmoreland.	
Elizabeth countess of Clare, wife of John earl of Clare.	
Catherine lady Paulet, wife of John lord Paulet of Hinton.	
Anne wife of Thomas lord Fairfax of Cam- eron and mother to Mary Duchess of Buckingham.	

XX.

*Pedigree of Braine, showing the connexion with Bridges and Hamlyne, which Mr. Townsend stated he had delivered to Mr. Egerton Brydges in February 1791.*

Richard Braine of Little Dean Co. Glouc. esq. ob. 7 June 1572. Will d. 31 Mar. 1572. proved 19 June following	=	Jane dau'r and heir of John Dyggs of Lee Co. Glouc.
Thomas Braine eldest son and heir apparent ob. vitâ patris.	=	Mary dau'r of Thos. Velle. ob. ante 1572.
Elizabeth dau'r of Anthony Bridges (1st wife) ob. S. P.	=	Thomas Braine of Little Dean esq. Grandson & heir & æt. 29 years & 18 weeks on 5 Dec. 1572. ob. S. P. Will d. 10 Apr. 1604. proved 31 May following.
	=	Katherine (2d wife) euceinte 1604
	=	Hamlyne . . . . of Wilts.
	=	Jane dau'r of Thomas and sis- ter of Thomas Braine.



## XXI.

*Licence and Bond for marriage of Simon Millen and Mary Bridges.*

Extracted from the Registry of the Consistory Court of Canterbury, 9<sup>o</sup> Octobris 1662.

W<sup>ch</sup> day appeared p'sonallie Simon Millen of the p'ish of Charing in the countie of Kent and Dioces of Cant maulster a Batchelor aged 27 yeares or thereabouts his p'ents beeing dead and hee at his owne Gov'n<sup>mt</sup> and alleageth that hee intends to marry w<sup>th</sup> Mary Bridges of the p'ish of Charing aforesaid Virgin aged 22 yeares or thereabouts the Daughter of Edward Bridges of Faversham in the Dioces of Cant who appeared p'sonallie and hereunto consented And of the truth of the p'misses and that hee knoweth of noe lawfull lett or impedim<sup>t</sup> by reason of any p'contract consanguinitie affinitie or otherwise to hinder this intended marriage he made faith and desired licence to bee married in the p'ish church of S<sup>t</sup> Margaret in Cant'—Symon Millen. Edward Bridges—Eod' die Em<sup>t</sup> Licen' juxta &c concessa' p' m<sup>er</sup> William Lovelace cl'icu' Surr<sup>tw</sup> &c. ob<sup>r</sup> cum eod' p'dcus Edwardus Bridges p'r in 200£.

## Bond.

Noverint univ<sup>rsi</sup> per presentes Nos Simonem Millen p'ochio de Chareing in comitatu Cantij Maulster et Edwardum Bridges Villæ de Feversham in comitatu præd'co gen. teneri ac firm<sup>r</sup>

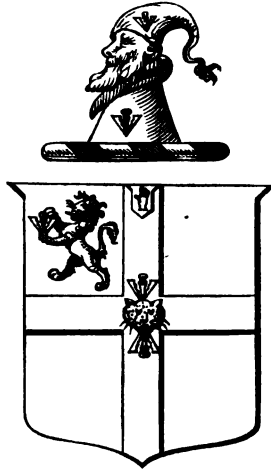
obligari ven<sup>u</sup> viro d'no Edmundo Pierce militi ac legū d'cori civitat. et diocess. Cant. com<sup>r</sup>o gen<sup>u</sup> &c in ducentis libris &c Dat. nono die mensis Octobris A° &c 1662.

## XXII.

*Frances Moore, sister of John Bridges of Cirencester.* P. 118.

In the Heralds' Visitation of Hants, anno 1686, Frances, the sister of John Bridges and wife of Richard Moore of Rotherwick, is described as daughter *and heir* of Richard Bruges; and lord Bolton seems to have inferred from such description that she survived her brother John Bruges or Bridges who died without issue; and that therefore, being alive in 1648, she ought to have been joined with him in the commission to administer the effects of lady Astley. It is apprehended that it is not usual for all the parties, entitled to share in an intestate's effects, to be joined in the commission: one of them being sufficient, and accountable to the others. With regard to the description of Frances in the pedigree of Moore, it may be proper to observe, that nothing is more common than to apply in pedigrees such a description to females who were, in strict legal construction, neither heirs to their father nor brother; having died in the lifetime of both. It is understood by heralds to mean no more than that the *issue* of such females became heirs to the arms of the family. In the pedigree, for example, of Lord Teynham, delivered into the house of lords in 1781, his first wife is called daughter *and coheir* of Sir Francis Head, though her father outlived her more than ten years. In all the pedigrees

of the late duke of Marlborough, his grandmother is described second daughter *and coheir* of the great duke, though it is certain that she died six years before her father. In the pedigree of the duke of Chandos, proved in the house in 1774, his grace's mother was called daughter and *at length coheir* of Charles Bruce earl of Ailesbúry; though she died in August 1738, and her father not till 1747. The mother of the duke of Leeds, in his pedigree proved 10th Feb. 1777, is styled 2d daughter *and coheir* of Francis earl of Godolphin; though she died in 1764, and he in 1766. Innumerable instances of this kind could be produced to show that when heralds use the words *heir* and *coheir* in their description of *deceased females* they mean only that such female was the *medium* through which the inheritance of the arms of her ancestors passed to her posterity; and, in the case in question, that Frances Moore, formerly Bridges, the daughter of Richard and sister of John Bridges, transmitted the right to quarter the arms of Bridges to her posterity of the family of Moore. It appears to have been supposed that she must have survived her brother, because she is described *heir* to her father; but, to make the position tenable, her father must also have outlived her brother: for if her father died first, her brother must have been his heir; and then she, if the longest liver of the three, must have been heir to her brother, not to her father. But it is proved by the administration that the son survived the father, or he could not have been next of kin to Lady Astley; consequently the description of Mrs. Moore cannot be correct, *in the strict legal sense* of the word, though conformable to heraldic usage.



## XXIII.

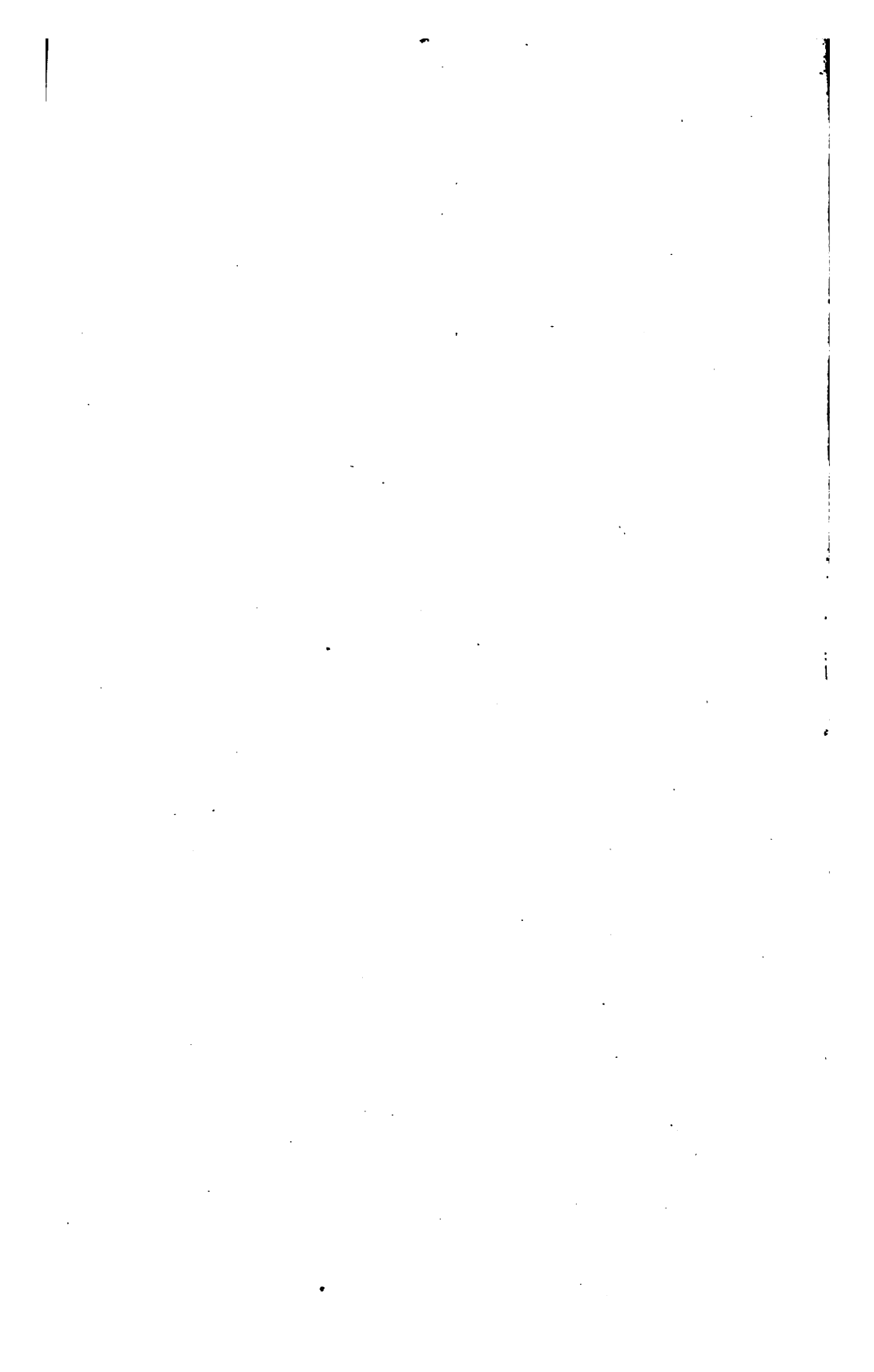
*The Arms of Sir Samuel-Egerton Brydges Baronet.*

Argent, a Cross Sable, charged on the centre with a Leopard's face *between two Phœons in pale, the points towards each other and piercing the face, Or*: *in the first quarter a Lion rampant Gules, holding between the paws a Phœon, the point downwards, of the Second.*

*Crest.*—The bust of a man, the head proper, hair and beard Sable, *vest Argent, collar Gules, cap Or, band and tassel of the Third, the cap and vest charged each with a Phœon, the point downwards, of the First.*

Preparatory to the advancement of Samuel-Egerton Brydges, of Denton Court, in the county of Kent, esquire, to the dignity of a baronet, the above arms and crest (without the inescutcheon of the arms of Ulster) were, upon his memorial for that purpose to the Earl Marshal, granted to the said Samuel-Egerton Brydges, to be borne by him and by his only surviving brother, John-William-Head Brydges, of Wootton Court, in the county of Kent, esquire, and by their issue respectively, and the said arms by his two sisters, Charlotte Jemima Brydges, spinster, and Charlotte, wife of John Harrison, of Denne Hill, in the parish of Kingston, in the same county, esquire, by patent under the hands and seals of Sir Isaac Heard, *knt. Garter, principal king of arms, and George Harrison, esquire, Clarenceux king of arms, bearing date the 27th of December, 1814. (Grants, vol. xxviii. 273.)*

N.B. The charges, which in the blazon are described in italics, are additions to or variations from the original coat and crest of Bridges.





**PEDIGREES.**

**I. Descendants of John à Bruges, or Bridges, the first Baron Chandos of Sudeley.**

**II. Descendants of Anthony Bridges, third son of John the first Lord Chandos, according to the case of the claimant.**

**III. Descendants of John Bridges of Harbledown.**

**IV. Pedigree of Knatchbull of Kent.**

I.

*The Descendants of John the first Baron Chandos, of Sudeley.*

SIR JOHN à BRUGES, or BRIDGES, eldest son and heir of Sir Giles Bruges of Coberley, = Elizabeth Grey, daughter of Edmund Lord of Gloucester; knighted at the battle of the Spurs, 1513; Knt. for the body to K. Henry VIII. and Constable of Sudeley Castle; Lieutenant of the Tower of London so Marie; created BARON CHANDOS of Sudeley, by pat. 8 Apr. 1554, to hold to him and the heirs male of his body. Ob. 4 Mar. 1556-7; buried at Sudeley on 3 May following. Will dated 2 Mar. 1555; proved 28 May, 1557.

Sir Edmund Bridges, Knt. Banneret at Roxburgh = Dorothy Bray, 5th dau. of Edmund, = William Knollys, Lord Knollys, and 27 Sept. 1547; succeeded as 2d Lord Chandos; and sister and coheir of John, Lords afterwards Viscount Wallingford and K.G. 1572. Ob. 11 Sept. 1573. Will dated 1 Mar. 1572-3; proved 5 June following.

William Knollys, Lord Knollys, and afterwards Viscount Wallingford and Earl of Banbury, K.G. &c. (2d husband.)

Giles Bridges, 2d son, of whom nothing is found after 1532.

Giles Bridges, 3rd Lord Chandos, = Frances, dau. of Edward Clinton, 1st Earl of Lincoln, K.G. Lord Admiral, &c. Ob. 12 Sept. 1623; buried at Sudeley. Will dated 23 July, 1592.

William Bridges, 4th = Mary, dau. of Sir Owen Hopton, Knt.; Lieut. of the Tower of London. Bur. at Stepney 23 Oct. 1624.

Eleanor, mar. Sir George Giffard of Chillington, co. Stafford, Knt.

Catherine, mar. William Lord Sandys.

Elizabeth, eldest dau. and coheir; married Sir John Kennedy of Scotland, and died without issue.

Katherine, 2nd dau. and coheir; married Francis Russel, Earl of Bedford. Ob. 29 Jan. 1653-4.

Grey Bridges, 5th Lord Chandos. = Anne, dau. and coheir of Ferdinando Stanley, Earl of Derby. Ob. 10 Aug. 1621. Administration granted 30 Mar. 1622, to Anne Lady Chandos, his relict.

Administration of Derby.

From whom the Duke of Bedford, 1834.

u

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a

Charles Bridges of Wilton Castle, in the county of Hereford, Esq.; 3rd, but 2nd surviving son, = Jane, dau. of Sir Edward Deputy Lieutenant of the Tower, and Cup-bearer to K. Philip; Sheriff of Herefordshire 1590. (Carne, of Wenny, co. Glamorgan, Knt. Stephen Bridges, 4th son, of whom nothing appears after 1532.

Sir Giles Bridges, of Wilton = Mary, dau. of Sir James Castle aforesaid, Knt. eldest son and heir; created a Baronet 17 May, 1627. Buried at Peterstowe, co. Hereford, 2 Sept. 1637. Will dat. 4 Sept. 1634; proved 22 Nov. 1637.

Tristram Bridges, 2nd son, a witness to the Will of his cousin, Sir Giles Bridges, in 1624, and named in the Will of his brother, Sir Giles, in 1634. Ob. s.p. Oct. 21 Car. I. 1646. (See Appendix, n. iii.)

Thomas Bridges, 3rd son; named in 1624 and 1634. Died *without issue male*, and was buried at Peterstow 19 Sept. 1646. He left three daughters: 1. Eleanor, 2. Deborah, 3. Catherine. Catherine, mar. Timothy Gate, of Cleve, co. Gloucester, 1634.

c

c

Sir Giles Bridges, 2nd son of William 4th Lord Chandos; knighted at Theobalds 17 Sept. 1616. Ob. s.p. in the Parish of St. Fields. Will dat. 6 April, 1624; proved 13 Oct. 1628, by Sir Giles Bridges, Bart.

William Bridges, of London, Esq.; named, in the Will of his brother, Sir Giles, in 1624, when he had two sons living. He appears to have had also a daughter, Mary, wife of James Young, Esq., Gent. of the Privy Chamber to Charles I. and a Colonel in that King's service. She died 14 Dec. 1697, et. 80. (Mon. Insc. in Winch. Cathedral.)

Frances, married 1<sup>o</sup> Sir Thomas Smith, Knt. Master of Requests, and Latin Secretary to K. James I. (by whom she had Robert Smith, who died s.p. in 1626, and a Margaret, who married, 1<sup>o</sup>, Sir Edward Herbert, Knt. Attorney-General to K. Charles I., and 2<sup>o</sup>, Thomas Carey, 2nd son of Robert Earl of Monmouth by both of whom the said Margaret left issue), and 2<sup>o</sup>, Thomas Cecil Earl of Exeter, K. G. &c. by whom she had an only child, Anna Sophia, who died an infant. The Countess died in 1663, et. 83. Will d. 20 Jan. 1662; prov. 17 July, 1663.

Jane, or Joan; mar. Sir Ambrose Turville, of Langley, com. Bucks, Knt. Beata, or Beatrice; mar. Sir Henry Poole, of Sperton, co. Glouc. Knt. Ob. 1602.



d

Susanna, = George Bridges, 6th = Jane, dau. = Sir William = George Pitt,  
 dau. of Lord Chandos; set. of John Sa- Sedley, of of Stratfield- Frances;  
 Henry 1 year and 1 day at vege Earl South Fleet, say, county married  
 Montagu, Rivers. co. Kent. Hauts, Esq. Touchet — Tor-  
 Earl of Ob. 6 June, Bart. Ob. Ob. 27 July, Merchant. — tison.  
 Manches- without issue male, and was buried at Harefield, co. Mid- Harefield, Earl of  
 ter. (1st wife.) Sudeley. (2nd wife.) (2nd husb.) (3rd husb.) at Harefield, co. Mid- Harefield, Earl of  
 (1st wife.) Sudeley. (2nd wife.) (2nd husb.) (3rd husb.) at Harefield, co. Mid- Harefield, Earl of

George Pitt, Esq. ancestor  
 of Lord Rivers.

William Bridges, 7th = Susan, dau.  
 Lord Chandos on the of Garret  
 death of his brother Keere, of  
 George in 1654. London,  
 He died without issue Merchant.  
 male, and was buried Buried at  
 at Harefield, co. Mid- Harefield, Earl of  
 dlesex, 22 Aug. 1676. 15 Oct. 1673. O. s. p.

Elizabeth,  
 mar. James  
 Touchet  
 Earl of  
 Castleshaven.  
 O. s. p.

Margaret, eldest dau. and coheir;  
 mar. 1<sup>o</sup>, Wm. Brownlow, of Snares-  
 ford, co. Lincoln, Esq. (by whom she  
 had an only daughter, Elizabeth, wife  
 of Philip Doughty, Esq. who left is-  
 sue;) 2<sup>o</sup>, Sir Tho. Skipwith, of Me-  
 theringham, co. Lincoln, Bart. by  
 whom she had a son, Sir Geo. Bridges  
 Skipwith, who died s. p. 1756, and  
 a dau. Lucy, who died unmar. 1763.

Elizabeth, 2nd dau.  
 and coheir; mar.  
 1<sup>o</sup>, Edward Lord  
 Herbert, of Chir-  
 bury; 2<sup>o</sup>, William  
 Earl of Inchiquin;  
 3<sup>o</sup>, Charles Lord  
 Howard, of Eserick.  
 Ob. 3 Feb. 1717-18.  
 s. p.

Jane.  
 Died unmar.  
 Lucy, 3rd dau. and coheir;  
 married Adam Loftus, of  
 Rathfarnham; created  
 Viscount Lisburne. Lucy,  
 her only dau. and heir,  
 mar. Thomas Marquis of  
 Wharton, and was mother  
 to Philip Duke of Whar-  
 ton. Issue ext.

Catherine.  
 Died un-  
 married.

William  
 Bridges;  
 only son.  
 Ob. s. p.;  
 bur. at  
 Harefield,  
 24 Jan.  
 1671.  
 Rebecca; married  
 Thomas Fride,  
 son of Thomas  
 Pride the regicide,  
 by Elizabeth  
 Moncke, niece of  
 Geo. Duke of Al-  
 bomarle. Her  
 dau. and heir,  
 Elizabeth, mar.  
 Frances. Wm. Sherwin, Esq.

f

Sir James Brydges, of Wilton = Elizabeth, eldest  
 Castle atresaid, Bart. only dau. and coheir  
 son and heir; succeeded as  
 8th Lord Chandos on the de-  
 cease of William the 7th Lord,  
 and set first in Parliament 15  
 Feb. 1676. He was Ambassa-  
 dor at Constantinople in 1680.  
 Ob. 16 Oct. 1714, and was  
 buried at Aconbury.

Charles Brydges,  
 eldest son; born  
 29 Oct. bapt. at  
 Tewksbury 3  
 Nov. 1689; died  
 at Constantino-  
 ple, a minor and  
 unmarried.

John Brydges, of  
 the Mythe afore-  
 said, Esq. eldest  
 surviving son and  
 heir; b. 29 Jan.  
 bapt. at Tewks-  
 bury, 4 Feb. 1660.  
 Ob. s. p.; bur. at  
 Tewksbury 6  
 April, 1731.

Giles Brydges,  
 of Tewksbury,  
 4th and young-  
 est son; bapt.  
 there 14 April,  
 1668. Ob. s. p.;  
 bur. there 22  
 June, 1705.

Anne; born and baptized at  
 Tewksbury, 29 March, 1662;  
 mar. there 11 Apr. 1687, to  
 Thomas Neast, of Twining,  
 co. Glouc. and 2ndly, to Wm.  
 Higford, of the same place.  
 Executrix to her brother Giles  
 in 1705, and to her mother  
 in 1706.

g

h

h

Francis Brydges, of Chis—Sarah, dau. of Thomas wick, com. Middlesex, Esq. Receiver-General of the Western, of the Salt Duty; 3rd and youngest son; b. 17 Dec. 1692; mar. 26 May, 1692, to Edmund Chamberlain, of Stow, co. Glouc. Esq. Ob. 18 June, 1715.

Barnard Brydges. Ob. 1676.

John Brydges; born and died co. Essex, 1671.

William Bridges; born and died 10 June, 1725.

Mary; mar. 28 Novemb. 1689, to Theophilus Leigh, of Adlestrop, co. Glouc. Esq. —

Elizabeth; mar. 25 Dec. 1691, to Alexander Jacob, Esq. by whom she had issue two sons, Alexander and Robert. She married, 2ndly, Thos. Dawson, D.D. Vicar of Windsor. Ob. 23 Nov. 1739; bur. at Whitechurch.

Emma; mar. 26 May, 1692, to Edmund Chamberlain, of Stow, co. Glouc. Esq. Ob. 18 June, 1715.

Ann; mar. 10 Mar. 1696, to Charles Walcot, of Walcott, co. Salop, Esq. Ob. 1704.

Catherine; mar. 2 May, 1700, Breton Bouchier, of Barnsley Court, co. Glouc. Esq.; 2ndly, to Henry Perrot, of North Leigh, co. Oxon, Esq. Ob. 11 July, 1732.

Mary, only dau. and heir of Sir Thomas Lake, of Cannons, co. Middlesex, Knt.; mar. 27 Feb. 1696-7. Ob. 15th; buried at Whitechurch, 23 Dec. 1712.

(1st wife.)

James Brydges, eldest son and heir; = Cassandra, dau. of Fras. Willoughby, of Wollaton, co. Notts, Esq. sister of Thomas Lord Willoughby, of Davall, Knt.; Mar. 4 Aug. 1713. Ob. s.p. 16 July, 1735; bur. at Whitechurch.

(2nd wife.)

Henry Brydges, D.D. = Annabella, dau. of Hen. Atkins, son of Sir Robert Atkins, Knt. Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Ob. Aug. 1763; bur. at Whitechurch.

Administ. granted to her son James 31 July following to Annabella, his relict.

k

James, Thomas, Lancelot, and Charles. All died young.

John Brydges, eldest surviving son, commonly called Marquis of Caernarvon, M.P. for = Catherine, dau. of Lionel Tollemache Steyning. Died in the lifetime of his father, *without issue made*, in April 1727, aged 24.

Catherine, eldest dau. and coheir; b. 17 Dec. 1725; mar. 1st, Wm. Berkeley Lyon, Esq. a Capt. in the Horse-Guards; 2ndly, Edwyn Franc. Stanhope, Esq.

Jane, 2nd, and a posthumous dau. and coheir; b. 27 July, 1727; mar. 14 Mar. 1754, to her cousin, James Brydges, of Pinner, Esq.

Sir Henry Edwyn Stanhope, Bart. Ob. 1818.

Sir Edwyn Francis Scudamore Stanhope, Bart. 1834.

James, 1st son. Died young, in May 1723.  
Robert Brydges, Esq.; 2nd, but eldest surviving son and heir. Died unmarried in September 1779.

James Brydges, of Pin-ner, com. Middx. Esq.; 3rd son and youngest son and heir to his brother. Died *without issue*, 12 July, 1769.

Elizabeth Louisa; mar. Sir Rob. Walters, Bart. and had issue.  
Annabella; mar. Colonel Thomas Inwood, of Stanmore, co. Middx. Ob. 1 Mar. 1776.

Mary; mar. Simon Aicene, of Chalgrove, co. Oxon, Esq. and had issue.  
Catherine; mar. Lindley Simpson, of Babworth, co. Notts, Esq.

Henrietta; mar. John Kearney, D.D. of Ireland, and had issue.  
Cassandra. Died unmarried in March 1739-40.

Mary, eldest dau. and length coheir of Charles Bruce Earl of Ailesbury; mar. 21 Dec. 1728. Ob. 14 Aug. 1738; buried at Whitchurch.

(1st wife.)

Henry Brydges, 2nd Duke of Chandos, &c. and 10th Lord Chandos. Died at Biddenden, co. Southampton, 28 Nov. 1771, and was buried at Whitchurch on the 12th of the following month.

Augusta Anne; born 6 Oct. 1748; mar. 20 Jan. 1778, to Henry John Kearney, Esq.

Elizabeth, 2nd dau. and coheir of Sir John Major, of Worlingworth Hall, co. Suffolk, Bart.; mar. at West Ham, 18th July, 1767. (3rd wife.)

Mary, Rebecca, and Jane. Died young.

Margaret, sole dau. and heir of John Nicoll, of Colney Hatch, co. Middx. Esq.; mar. 22 Mar. 1753. Ob. s.p. 14 Aug. 1768; bur. at Whitchurch, 29th of the same month.

(1st wife.)

James Brydges, 3rd Duke of Chandos, Marquess and Earl of Cernarvon, Viscount Wilton, and 11th AND LAST BARON CHANDOS OF SUDELEY. Only son and heir; born 16 Dec. 1731. Died 29 Sept. 1789, *without issue male*; bur. at Whitchurch 10th of the following month.

Anne Eliza, dau. of Richard Gamon, Esq. and sister of Sir Richard Gamon, Bart. She was relict of Roger Hope Elletson, Esq. Mar. 21 June, 1777. Ob.

(2nd wife.)

Caroline, only dau.; b. 19 March, 1729-30; mar. 10 Mar. 1756, to James Leigh of Adlestrop, co. Glouce. Esq. and left issue.

Charlotte-Augusta-Matilda, eldest dau.; born 5 Sept. and died 9 Oct. 1778.

Richard Temple-Nugent-Brydges-Chandos-Grenville Duke and Marquess of Buckingham, and Duke and Marquess of Chandos, Earl Temple, Earl Temple of Stowe, and Viscount and Baron Cobham in the United Kingdom, and Earl Nugent in Ireland, K.G. &c. &c. Born 20 March, 1776.

Anne-Eliza, only surviving dau. and sole heir; born 27 Oct.; bapt. 20 Nov. 1779; mar. 16 April, 1796; now Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, &c. &c.

Richard-Plantagenet Brydges-Chandos-Temple-Grenville, commonly called Marquess of Chandos, 1634.

II.

*The Descendants of Anthony Bridges, third Son of John first Baron Chandos, according to the late Claimant's Pedigree delivered in to the House of Lords in 1790, with the Additions and Variations in Italics which occur in the Pedigree as reprinted in 1795.*

Anthony Bridges = Katherine, daughter of — Fortescue, Esq.

Robert Bridges, Esq. of Maidstone, in Kent, ———, buried at Maidstone, July 15, 1636.

Katherine = Sir John Astley, of the Palace, Maidstone, died 1648. Knight, who died January 1639.

June 18, 1627, at Faversham.

Edward Bridges, of Faversham, bapt. 25 March 1603, at Maidstone, in Kent; living in 1662.

Katharine, daughter and heir of John Sharpe of Faversham; buried there 28th April 1646.

Anne Bridges, bapt. 25th = Wm. Best, March 1603, at Maidstone; married, 1st May, 1640, at Overe.

John Bridges, bapt. August 16, 1629, at Ospringe; buried, Sept. 25, 1632, at Faversham, Nov. 29, 1631.

Edward, bapt. Nov. 18, 1631, at Ospringe; buried at Faversham, Nov. 29, 1632.

Robert, bapt. Dec. 16, 1632, at Ospringe; buried Dec. 23, 1632.

1. . . . . = John, bapt. at Faversham, Sept. 28, 1634; buried at St. Andrew's, Canterbury, Nov. 28, 1699.

2. . . . . = Mary, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Young. Mary, married in 1662 to Simon Millen.

3. . . . . = Mary, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Young.

4. . . . . = Astley Best, bapt. 14 March 1640-1, at Overe, next Faversham.

a



September 1704.  
 John Bridges, bapt. at St. = Jane, daughter and heir of Edward Andrew, Canterbury, Oct. 11, 1680; buried at Canterbury, July 15, 1712.  
 Edw. Bridges, bapt. at St. Andrew, Canterbury, March 10, 1683.  
 Thomas, bapt. at St. Andrew, Canterbury, March 10, 1683.  
 Robert, bapt. at St. Andrew, Canterbury, Aug. 17, 1685; buried there Dec. 8, 1692.

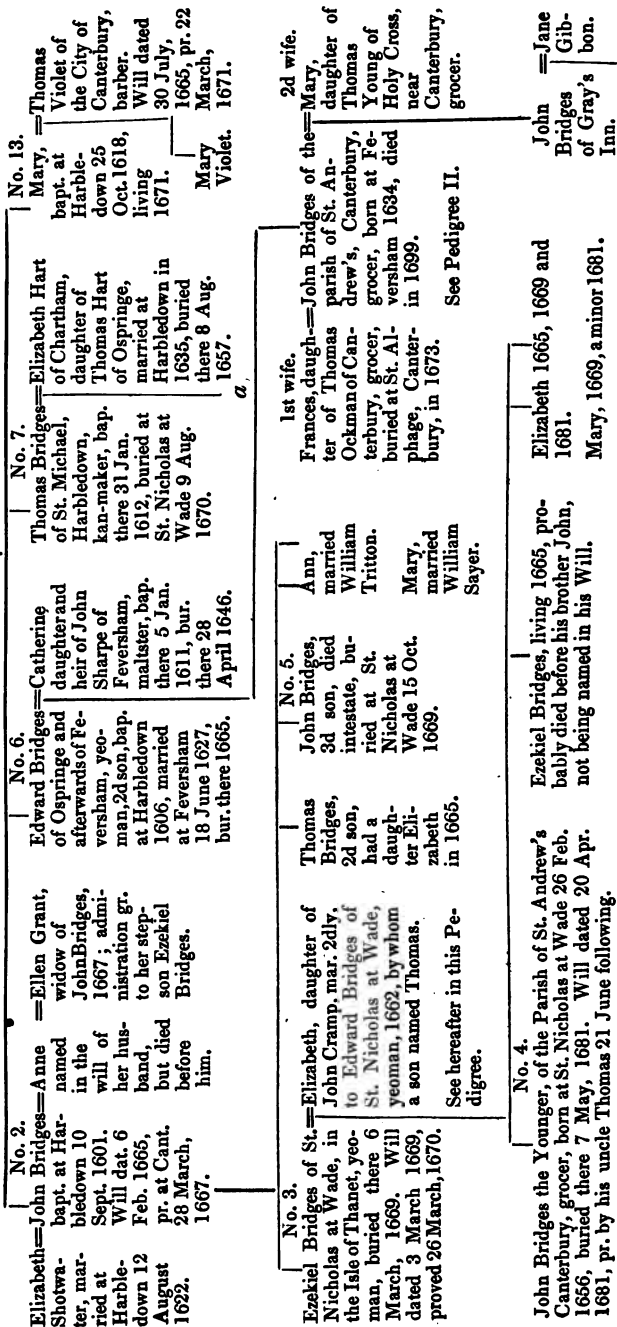
John Bridges, born in Oct. 1707; died in Feb. 1709.  
 John Bridges, bapt. July 13, 1710, at St. Mary Magdalen, Canterbury; buried at Wootton, April 30, 1780. Died unmarried.  
 Edward Bridges, bapt. Jan. = Jemima, daughter and coheir of William Egerton, LL.D., grandson of John Earl of Bridgewater. 1747.  
 Edward Bridges, bapt. Jan. 15, 1712; buried at Wootton, November 26, 1780. set. 69.

EDWARD TYMEWELL BRYDGES, bpt. June 18, 1749. THE CLAIMANT.  
 Anne, [bapt. 22d March 1747-8.] married the Rev. Geo. Lefroy.  
 Jane, [bapt. 8 Novem. 1750.] died unmarried. 1788.  
 John, [baptized Aug. 8, 1752.] died an infant.  
 Deborah Jemima [bapt. March 23, 1755.] married Henry Marwell, Esq. and died in March 1789.  
 John Egerton, [baptized Feb. 1, 1758.] died an infant.  
 Char. Jemima Christian [baptized July 31, 1759.]  
 Samuel Egerton, [baptized Dec. 1, 1762.]  
 John William Head, [baptized July 5, 1764.]  
 Charlotte, [baptized May 2, 1766.]

III.

*Pedigree of the descendants of John Bridges of Harbledown.*

John Bridges of St. Michael's, Harbledown, near Canterbury, = Mary Avis, married at Harbledown, churchwarden there anno 1632; buried there 11 July, 1646. 7 Oct. 1600, buried there 1 May, 1650. Will proved at Canterbury 22 Jan. 1646.

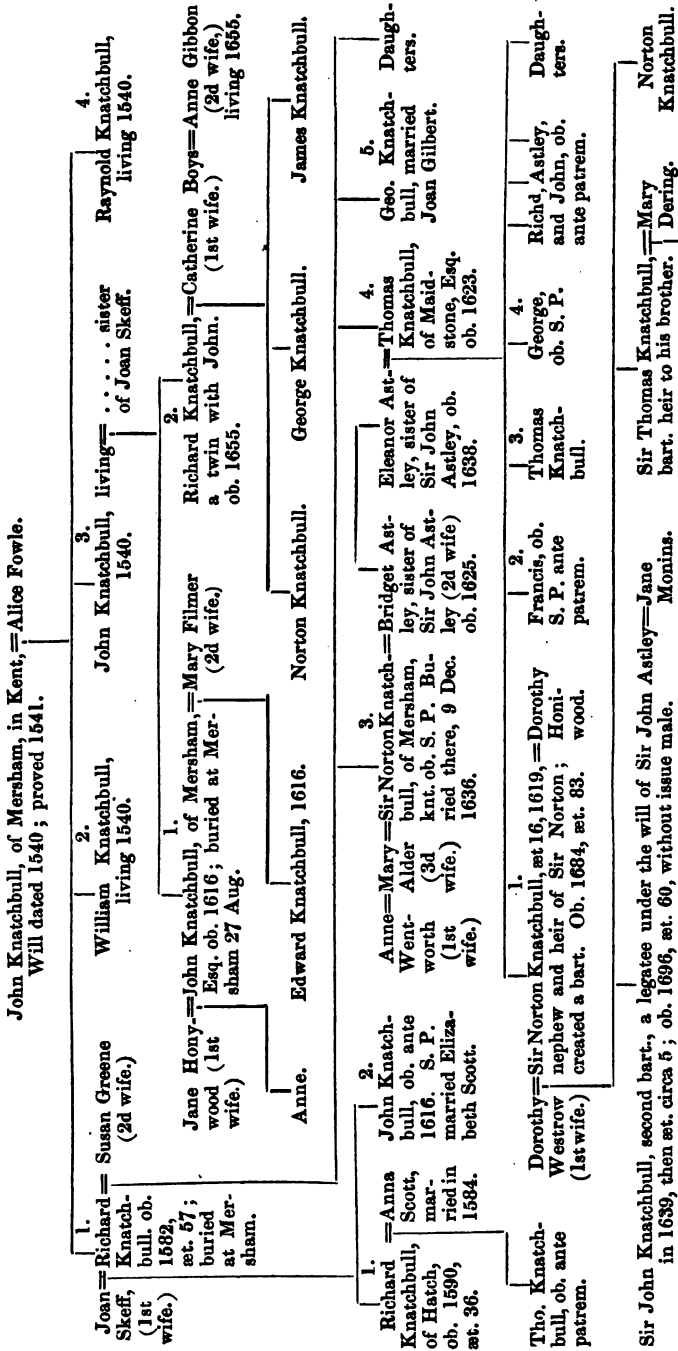


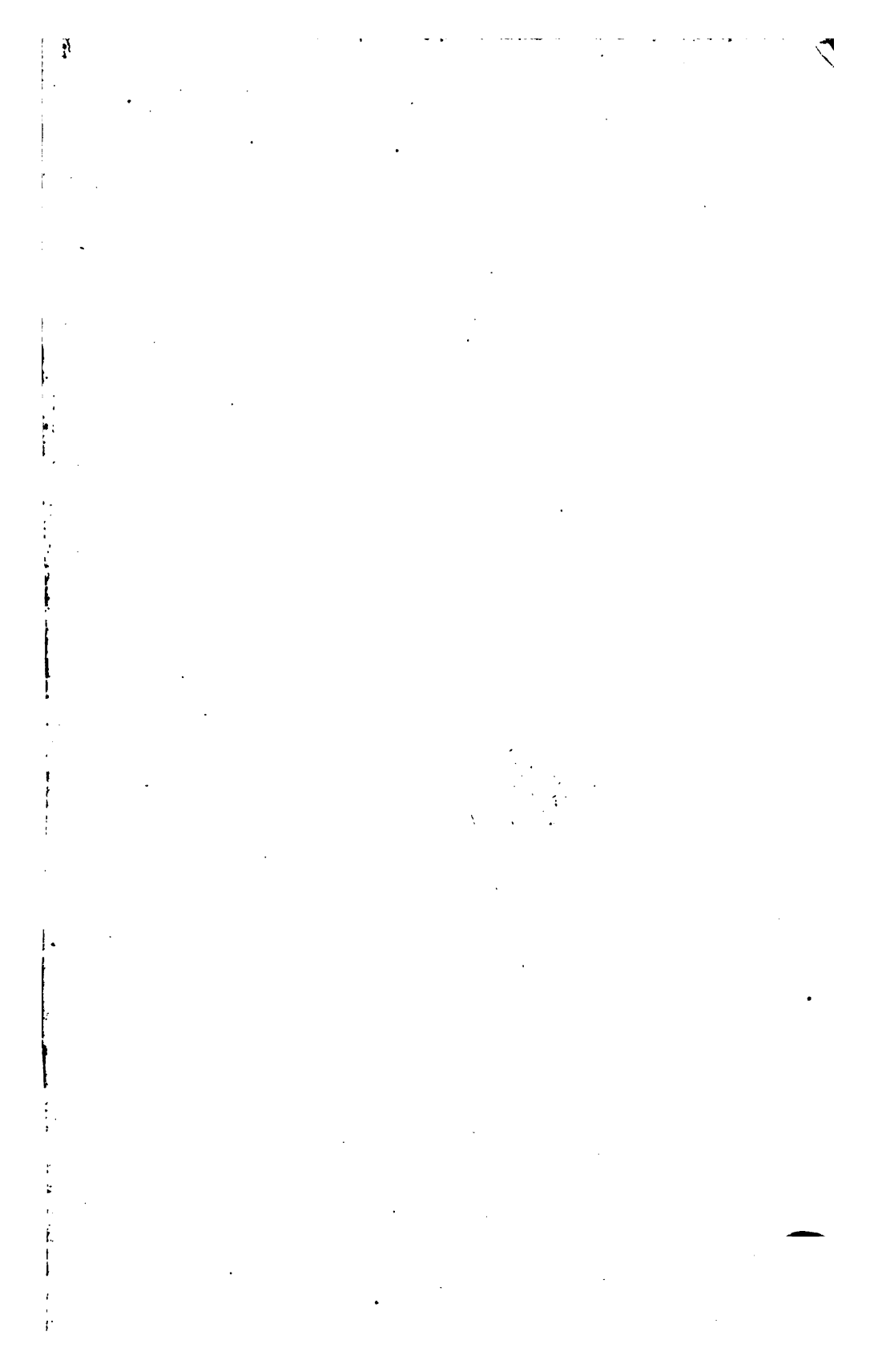
Edward Bridges of Wootton Court = Jemima Egerton.  
EDWARD TYMEWELL BRIDGES.

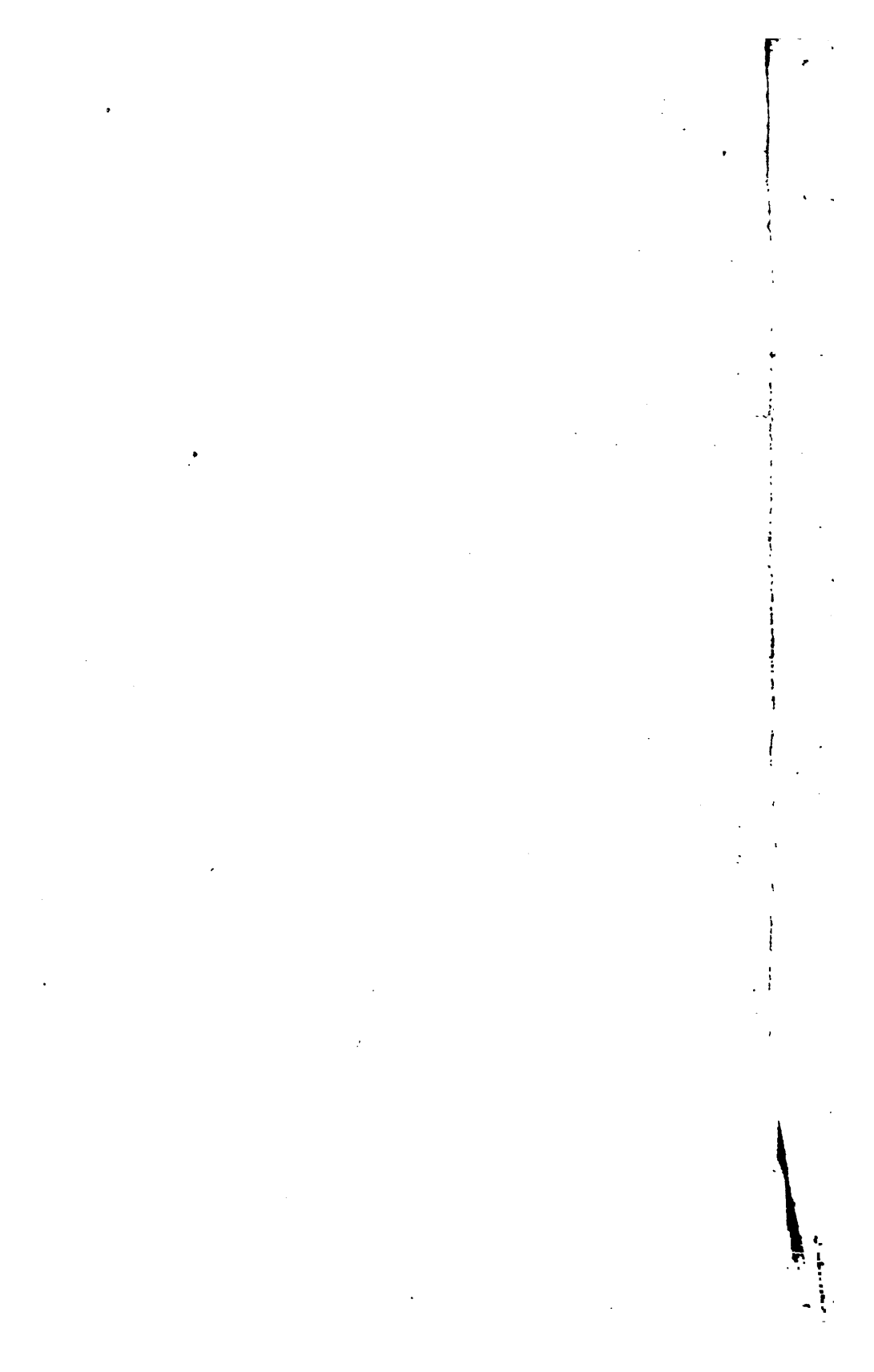


IV.

*State of the Family of Knatchbull in 1641.*







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